Today's
The Herald-Palladium
included inside

Area track athletes to compete at D2 state tournament
Page B1

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Dowagiac News

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Cassopolis announces Class of 2026 Top 10

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

CASSOPOLIS — A group of students was honored for their efforts and excellence in the classroom over the past four years.

The administration and staff at Cassopolis Ross Beatty High School announced the top 10 graduates from the Class of 2026 this week. The 10 students have excelled both in and out of the classroom by maintaining a high academic record while also participating in numerous extracurricular activities and teams. Commencement will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 28 in the High School Gymnasium.

Graduating as Valedictorian of the Class of 2026 is **Mikayla Myrthil**. Mikayla Myrthil is the daughter of Anthony Myrthil and Dana Jenkins. Throughout her school years, Mikayla has been a part of First Robotics, partially as lead programmer and logo designer; Science Olympiad, Student Senate, Drama Club, Track and Field, and Basketball. Mikayla is also a dual-enrolled student who will graduate with 30-plus credits, completing the Michigan Transfer Agreement. After graduation, Mikayla plans to attend the University of Michigan, where she will major in psychology and, ultimately, strive for a career in psychiatry.

Representing the Class of 2026 as Salutatorian is **Kenyen Xayasane-Kennedy**. Kenyen is the son of Vilay Xayasane and Troy Kennedy. He has been actively involved in Concert Band, Marching Band, FFA, Science Olympiad, National Honor Society, Student Senate, where he serves as class president, and Robotics, where he serves as both Team Captain and Business Captain. Outside of school, he is also a member of the Michigan Gateway Community Foundation Youth Advisory Council (MGCF YAC). After high school, Kenyen plans to attend the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business to pursue a Bachelor of Business Administration. With his strong background in leadership and service, he is prepared to embrace new opportunities and challenges. He looks forward to growing academically and personally as he works toward a future career in business.

Photo provided

See **TOP 10**, page A3

Photos by E Scott Rose

A Chieftain celebration

Dowagiac graduates Class of 2026

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — The Dowagiac community gave a rousing send-off to the members of the Class of 2026 Sunday afternoon at Chris Taylor Alumni Field for the Dowagiac Union High School commencement ceremony.

Following the performance of Michael Jackson's "Man in The Mirror" by the Dowagiac Union High School Choir, Valedictorian Bree Behnke and Salutatorian Johannah McDonald took to the podium to give one last speech to their classmates, teachers and community.

"My challenge to each of you is this: keep learning, keep dreaming

See **GRADUATES**, page A6

DOWAGIAC

Two arrested, charged after fights at graduation ceremony

By PMG STAFF

DOWAGIAC — Two men were arrested and three minors were taken into custody Sunday afternoon following altercations surrounding Dowagiac's commencement ceremony, according to the Dowagiac Police Department.

At approximately 3 p.m. Sunday, officers were dispatched to Chris Taylor Alumni Field in reference to a fight that was occurring during the Dowagiac Union High School graduation ceremony. Officers arrived, along with the School Resource Officer who was already at the scene and found a large crowd of people fighting near the bleachers with several fleeing upon officer's arrival. Officers observed one individual involved in the fight who had a current warrant for his arrest and took that person into custody.

Officers requested assistance from other law enforcement agencies in the county due to the number of people involved in the incident.

Several people involved in the altercation fled upon arrival of law enforcement. Officers began to contact individuals and witnesses still at the scene to determine what happened and how the altercation started. Officers determined some of the parties involved and were attempting to locate them. Officers were advised that the person in custody on the warrant was directly involved in the altercation and he was arrested for that as well.

Officers were advised that a 7-year-old received minor injuries after being caught in the altercation. An ambulance was requested and responded to the incident for treatment of a very

See **FIGHTS**, page A3

Council approves Cassopolis budget, Headlee Rollback at special meeting

By JUSTIN FLAGEL
Leader Correspondent

CASSOPOLIS — Several questions were raised last week regarding standard budget and taxation procedures in Cassopolis at both the regular village council meeting and at a special meeting prompted by the concerns.

The vote for the annual Truth in Taxation Resolution related to the annual Headlee Rollback process was denied approval at the council's May 11 meeting, with Trustees Jeanne Makay, Asali Kelly, and James Pedersen voting no. The resolution is an annual mechanism allowing the village to maintain revenue based on the legal and voter-approved millage rate and is not an increase in taxes.

At the special meeting held Wednesday, May 13, several residents asked questions regarding the annual Headlee Rollback and how it affects taxpayers. It was explained that a new tax was not being created and that residents should not expect an increase in their taxes except for those created due to an increase in their property value as assessed by township assessors. The resolution was approved at the special meeting by Trustees Stefon Luckey, Kimberle Danzy-Yeager, Frank Williams Jr, and Village President David Johnson. Trustees Makay, Kelly and Pedersen were not present.

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Dianne Marie Russ
Johnnie M. Simpson
Dr. Chansin Yaung
Steven John Schuur
Judith Ann Greenwood
Wallace W Swartz

hp FOOD
Flavors and cultures of Spain

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FRANKLY

Tips and quips

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip or a quip? Call Frankly at 269-687-7700 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com.

■ Congratulations to our Chieftain graduates. Your community is so proud of you.

■ Who votes against funding for the Niles Burn Run and the Memorial Day Parade? Council member Thompson, are you representing the people of the 4th Ward or promoting your own political agenda?

■ Cassopolis beachfront booze is not going to work out. Drunk people on the beach is not a great atmosphere.

■ Hats off to all Edwardsburg graduates.

■ Do data center owners live near them?

■ The Reflecting Pool in Washington DC was never meant to look like a Holiday Inn swimming pool.

■ Taking away our wind and solar power and forcing us to coexist with data centers and war in the middle east is going to send us into the dark ages. Literally.

■ Please drive slowly. There is a fresh crop of new drivers out there who need you to be patient as they learn to drive.

■ It makes me sad to see Mr. Thompson vote against the Niles Memorial Day Parade. No amount of money can make up for the ultimate sacrifice veterans have made. The least we can do is honor them. No matter what the cost, it will never be enough.

■ Bucktown is proud of the Class of 2026.

WEATHER

Sunday: Showers likely, with thunderstorms possible. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 76. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent.

Medieval merriment

Renaissance Faire coming to Plym Park

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

Bards, knights, jesters and more could be found at the Niles Renaissance Faire at Plym Park this past weekend. Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications

NILES — A popular festival returned to Plym Park Saturday and Sunday that invited guests to travel back in time for fun festivities.

Bards, knights, jesters and more could be found at the Niles Renaissance Faire this past weekend. Hosted by Wolfshead Productions, the annual event featured costumed re-enactors performing historical demonstrations, theatrical shows, music and dancing.

More than 30 authentic craft and clothing vendors offered items for sale while food and drink was available from licensed food vendors. Games and other activities were also available for children. According to event organizer Carrie Nyenhuis, the renaissance faire attracts guests from all over the midwest and beyond.

"Last year, I had somebody in from Arizona. We definitely see them far and wide," she said. "I've heard Chicago, St. Louis and stuff like that. So they're definitely coming."

Nyenhuis has been a Renaissance era enthusiast for more than 20 years.

"I've always been one of those people that loves fantasy. I was big into theater when I was in high school and I was a theater major in college and that kind of rolls right into the Renaissance Faire," she said. "When my husband and I met, he was really big into the Renaissance Faires. He joined an archery group that we performed with for a few years, so it's kind of just been a part of our life all the time."

Nyenhuis is happy to bring the faire back to Niles for the eighth time in nine years, with this year marking five years since Wolfshead Productions has taken over the event from the city.

"We funded it all ourselves, everything," she said. "The best part of it is seeing the kids, the happy faces, and when they do the scavenger hunt and they see like they get their little prize at the end and everything. They're so happy and it's nice to bring joy."

According to Nyenhuis, last year's festival brought 3,250 to Plym Park with hopes of drawing 3,700 this year.

"I told my whole entire group that if we hit 4,250, then I'll dance around the table," she said.

SMC hosts 221 area students for Junior Day

By JOHN EBY
Southwestern Michigan College

DOWAGIAC — Southwestern Michigan College hosted 221 high school 11th graders from Lawton (50), Cassopolis Ross Beatty (62), Decatur (60), Covert (22), Edwardsburg Alternative Education (12) and Niles (15) on May 15.

Participants visited SMC's Dowagiac campus for nuts-and-bolts advice on the college admissions process.

In his welcome, President Dr. Klint Pleasant said SMC is the sixth college or university in his career, from schools with 1,200 students to 80,000. SMC enrolls more than 2,000.

"SMC makes perfect sense," Pleasant said. "You meet new people and feel college life and your world getting bigger, but at the same time, we're small enough in a good way where you can make meaningful connections that will shape your life for years to come.

"We are a residential campus" with 440 beds in three halls. "A lot of schools like ours are not. You have the opportunity to live on campus for the full college life. You can eat here, but you don't have to" because buying a meal plan is not required.

Photo provided
SMC President Dr. Klint Pleasant speaks during Junior Day.

"Academically, I want to underscore three big buckets that we do well," Pleasant said. "First, you can transfer to get a bachelor's degree. Second, if you want a two-year associate degree to move right into the workplace and start making money, you can do that, too. Third, if you want to get that associate degree or a certificate for more vocational training, you can do that. Students are the reason we're here!"

"You're getting ready to cross over a pretty serious threshold," Pleasant said, "finishing high school and perhaps transitioning to college. When I look back, it was one of the biggest decisions of my life.

"It was life-changing because college is where I met my closest friends," he said. "When I moved on from college and life got hard and threw me some curveballs, I leaned on friends I made in college. I still have a mentor that I talk to on a weekly basis. He's a faculty member I met in 1994. He's still shaping my life and is there whenever I need him."

Participants heard from admissions counselor Ethan Saylor and Director of Dual Enrollment Juliann Jankowski.

In the Student Activity Center theatre, Jankowski presented "College 101."

When Jankowski graduated from Cassopolis pre-dual enrollment, she took a summer communications course at SMC to acclimate herself to college and boost her confidence before pursuing her Michigan State University bachelor's degree.

"Preparing for college, job shadowing is a great way to get an inside look at a field of study," she said. "You want to be proactive because senior year goes fast. There are assessments that can be taken to explore different options to figure out what you might want to do based on your interests."

Budgeting is key to considering college, Jankowski said.

"Tuition is free through the State of Michigan, and SMC's Green Light Guarantee for someone who is not in-district. Room and board is separate."

"You want to look at the living environment," Jankowski said, deciding whether to live in campus housing or commute to classes.

"My oldest daughter went to Australia for graduate school," she said.

Jankowski also stressed filling out a FAFSA, or Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

"There are a lot of resources out there. Don't ever be embarrassed to seek them out," she said.

Saylor said potential students can apply to SMC for free year-round, but it will become more urgent in October of their senior year. There is no GPA requirement, just a high school diploma. Nor are SAT/ACT scores required.

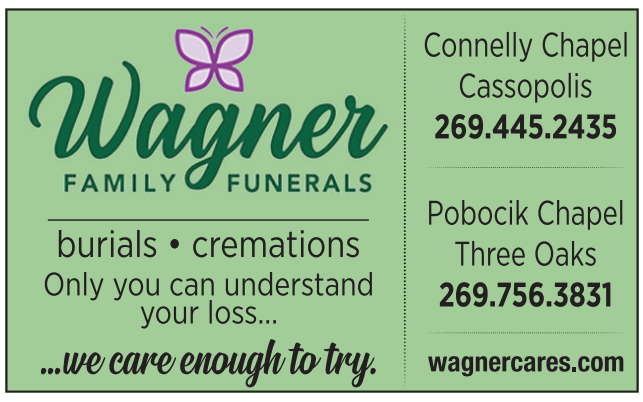
There are 39 clubs to get involved with at SMC. Nine intercollegiate sports include men's and women's basketball, women's volleyball, men's and women's wrestling, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's track and field, bass fishing and e-sports.

"There are more than 250 unique scholarships," Saylor said. "I'd like to see everyone save as much as you can."

"With the Community College Guarantee, if you live in Michigan, attend high school here and enroll as a fulltime student, you can get free tuition," Saylor said. "You can come from out-of-district, like Detroit," with SMC's Green Light Guarantee enhancement to cover costs.

In Mathews Conference Center West, Senior Admissions Counselor/Events Coordinator Allyson Harris led an interactive Kahoot session. Phone gamification measured content retention through 18 college-related questions.

Color-coded by towns, each of four groups toured campus, including the housing at Keith H. McKenzie Hall, then enjoyed a cookout with hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, cupcakes and lawn games.



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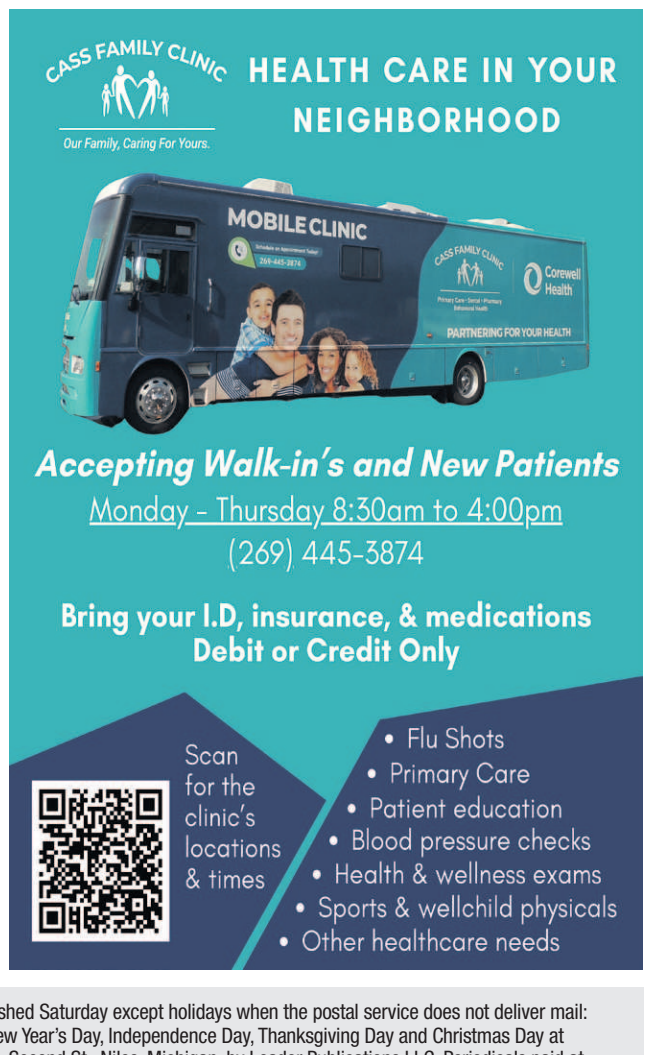
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Blackmon to fill LMC board vacancy

Boys & Girls Club CEO praises 'vital role' of higher education

By TONY WITTKOWSKI
Paxton Media Group

BENTON TOWNSHIP — The Lake Michigan College board has voted to appoint Alloyd Blackmon as its newest trustee, filling the seat vacated by Joan Smith, who resigned in January.

Blackmon brings to the board a career in corporate leadership, nonprofit management and community service across Southwest Michigan. She currently serves as CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Southwest Michigan, which provides after-school and summer programming for youth in grades 1-12.

BLACKMON

"I have seen firsthand the vital role Lake Michigan College plays in Southwest Michigan," Blackmon said in a news release. "My own daughter earned her associate degree here. Having a community college that gives our young people a strong foundation before they transfer to a four-year institution is incredibly important. Higher education has the power to truly transform lives, and to be given the opportunity to contribute to the great work LMC is already doing means a great deal to me."

Prior to her nonprofit leadership role, Blackmon retired from Whirlpool Corp. in Benton Harbor in 2020 after a 32-year career with the organization. She also manages the Benton Harbor Promise, a post-secondary scholarship program that supports Benton Harbor students in pursuing higher education.

Blackmon is no stranger to Lake Michigan College, having previously served on the LMC Foundation Board of Directors. She also serves on the boards of Mosaic CCDA, the Benton Harbor Education Foundation, and the Horizon Bank Southwest Michigan Advisory board.

She earned her master's of science in management and her bachelor's degree from Purdue University in Lafayette, Ind. Blackmon resides in Stevensville, Mich., and and has two daughters.

"We are thrilled to welcome Alloyd to the board of trustees," LMC Board Chair John Grover said in a news release. "Her deep roots in our community, her commitment to youth development, and her decades of professional experience make her an exceptional addition to the board. We look forward to her contributions as we continue to serve students and the Southwest Michigan region."

Blackmon, who is set to finish the remainder of Smith's term that ends this year, will begin her service on the board immediately.

Contact: twittkowski@TheHP.com, 932-0358.

FIGHTS

From page A1

minor injury. Officers were not made aware of any other injuries from this incident. Officers were advised that the parents of the child declined medical assistance from the ambulance crew.

Officers were later advised of an altercation that took place on Second Avenue in Dowagiac that was related to this incident. Officers were able to make contact with some of the other parties involved in the initial altercation and took two people, one adult that was arrested and lodged, and one juvenile that was taken into custody and turned over to parents.

Officers arrested two adults, 20- and 21-year-old males from Dowagiac, for assault and battery and disturbing the peace. The 20-year-old was arrested on an active warrant for his arrest as well. Both of these individuals were lodged at the Cass County Jail on charges of assault and battery and disturbing the peace. The names of the individuals are being withheld pending their arraignment in Cass County District Court.

Officers also took three juveniles into custody that were involved in the altercation.

The juveniles, ages 15, 16 and 17, were turned over to parents and will be petitioned into juvenile court for charges relating to this incident. The names of juveniles will not be released.

Blomgren addresses graduation altercations

Dowagiac Superintendent Greg Blomgren addressed the Board of Education Monday regarding the altercations that occurred both during and after Dowagiac's commencement ceremony Sunday afternoon.

"We will make sure that everybody understands that we don't condone that behavior at graduation or any other school event that we host or participate in," Blomgren said. "We will not tolerate it as a school district, and we will hold those involved accountable by supporting our local authorities and the prosecuting attorney while also ensuring that the individuals not affiliated with our schools will never set foot on our school grounds again without consequence.

"With that said, I was very proud of how our school community stepped up and made the graduation ceremony what it was meant to be – and that's a celebration for the class of 2026."

TOP 10

From page A1

Number three in the Class of 2026 is **Jordin Heiman**. The daughter of Randi Hoffman, she has been involved in varsity volleyball and softball, National Honors Society, and the dual enrollment program through SMC. Outside of school, she also played travel volleyball through NIVA. After graduation, she will continue her academic and volleyball career at SMC with an idea of becoming a speech pathologist.

Ezekiel Lenex ranks fourth among the Top Ten seniors at Ross Beatty High School and is the son of Stephanie and Joseph Lenex. A well-rounded and dedicated student, Ezekiel has been actively involved in the school's music programs, including Concert Band, Jazz Band, and Marching Band. Along with his academic and musical commitments, Ezekiel works part-time with his parents at their family business, where he has developed a strong work ethic and valuable hands-on experience. He has also participated in dual enrollment for the past two years, demonstrating his commitment to advancing his education.

Ezekiel has been accepted to Southwestern Michigan College for the fall of 2026, where he plans to pursue an Associate's in Science while continuing to participate in college-level music programs. Following his studies at SMC, he plans to transfer to Western Michigan University to take advantage of their engineering internship opportunities as he continues to pursue both civil engineering and music.

Ranked fifth is **Brooklyn Smith**, the daughter of Jason Smith and Erika Cooper. She has participated in golf, volleyball, track, and science olympiad throughout high school. After high school, Brooklyn plans to attend Michigan State University to pursue a bachelor degree in nursing. After college she plans to become a registered nurse or go into pediatrics.

Dickson Samadder ranks sixth among Ross Beatty's seniors. The son of Dilip and Namita Samadder, he has been involved in Soccer, Golf, DECA, FFA, NHS, Science Olympiad, and student council where he is currently Student Body President. He has competed at high levels in FFA, Science Olympiad, and golf including state competitions. Along with his extracurricular involvement, Dickson is dual-enrolled at SMC. After graduation, he plans to attend the University of Michigan where he will dual major and work towards his goal of receiving a bachelors in both Business and Political Sciences.

After the University of Michigan, Samadder hopes to get a law degree and become a lawyer. However his biggest goal in life is to start a family and live on the east coast with his wife. And if his wife ends up being Brooklyn he hopes she becomes a doctor so he can freeload off of her and play golf all day.

Number seven in the class is **William Westrate**, the son of Ana Karina Flores and Joseph Westrate. Throughout his four years at Cassopolis Ross Beatty High School, Westrate has been an active participant in soccer, track, basketball, and golf while also contributing to student council, National Honor Society, Science Olympiad, and the Michigan Department of Education Student Advisory Council. Westrate has additionally pursued dual enrollment at Southwestern Michigan College since his junior year. After graduation, he plans to attend Michigan State University, where he will study Turfgrass Science and Management alongside Hydrology. Westrate intends to pursue a career as a superintendent or within the golf course management industry at a top PGA-affiliated facility, with broader interests in sports turf management and environmental land restoration.

Victoria Christoper is ranked eighth in the class of 2026. The daughter of Julie and Bruce Christopher, she has dabbled in Theater and Robotics but continues to be involved with FFA along with the Jazz, Concert, and Marching Bands. She has also recently joined the Southwestern Michigan Symphonic Band for the remainder of the semester. Once she graduates high school she plans on getting a General Studies at Southwestern Michigan College. While there, she hopes to continue to participate in the Symphonic band and hopefully join the Jazz Band.

After finishing her degree she then plans on transferring to Michigan State University or another school with a Veterinary Program. After finishing college she hopes to become a Veterinarian for all species. She also hopes to rescue animals after she graduates and have a small livestock farm.

Ninth in the class is **Alessa Blanchard**, the daughter of Jamie Blanchard. She has participated in golf, volleyball and track throughout high school. After high school, Blanchard plans to attend Michigan State University to pursue a bachelor's degree in Psychology. Following her bachelors she plans on going to graduate school to get her masters in Counseling Psychology in hopes to eventually become a therapist.

Rounding out the top ten is **Waylon Yakel**, the son of Anthony and Rebecca Yakel. Throughout his time at Cassopolis Ross Beatty High School, he has been involved in Varsity Basketball and Baseball and has been a member of the National Honor Society. Yakel has also pursued dual enrollment through the Berrien RESA Math and Science Center and Southwestern Michigan College. Outside of school, he has grown a YouTube channel to over 100,000 subscribers.

After graduation, Yakel plans to attend Michigan State University, where he will study Mechanical Engineering. He intends to transfer to the University of Michigan to continue his engineering education, with longer term aspirations of attending graduate school at Stanford. Alongside his academic pursuits, Yakel plans to pursue entrepreneurship, with interests in engineering and artificial intelligence.

Judith Ann Greenwood

July 1, 1942 – May 19, 2026

Judith Ann Greenwood, 83, passed away on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, in Niles, Michigan, surrounded by her family.

Judy was born on July 1, 1942 in Benton Harbor, Michigan to the late Russell Myers and Arlene (Wetzel) Myers.

Along with her parents, Judy was preceded in death by her loving husband of many years, Larry D. Greenwood; daughter; Kelly Greenwood; son, Steven Greenwood; son-in-law, Patrick Hollis; sisters, Sharon McLaughlin and Janet Cheney, and brothers-in-law, Lowell McLaughlin and Burton Cheney Sr.

Left to cherish the memory of Judy are her daughters, Sherry (Greg) Akey and Tina Hollis; grandchildren, Alyssa (Scott) Sarver, Erica (Ben) Wainwright, Haley (Alex) Hardy, Jessica (Josiah) Smith, Justin (Madison) Akey, Tyler Hollis, and Brayden Hollis; great grandchildren, Parker Hardy, Bennett Hardy, Sloane Wainwright, Laurel Wainwright, and Sadie Smith; siblings, Linda (Dwight) Roberts, Wayne (Kathy) Myers, Jack (Beverly) Myers, and Harold (Leuellyn) Myers; several nieces and nephews, and her close friend Bonnie Smith.

Judy was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend who will be deeply missed by all who knew her. On Sept. 29, 1962, she married the love of her life, Larry D. Greenwood, in a ceremony in Dowagiac, Michigan. Together they shared many wonderful years and welcomed four children into their family.

Judy and Larry proudly owned and operated the Old Tavern Inn "OTI" for 18 years before retiring in 2008. She became well known for her home-cooked meals at the restaurant, especially her famous goulash and ham sandwiches. Her recipes were loved by many and are still being used today.

Before becoming the owner of OTI, Judy worked in special education at Dowagiac Junior High, a job that brought her great joy. She had a caring heart and enjoyed helping children in any way she could.

Above all else, Judy loved her family. She treasured every moment spent with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and always enjoyed having them close by. She also had a special love for her dogs, who brought her comfort and companionship throughout the years.

Judy will be remembered for her kindness, hard work, good cooking, and the love she gave so freely to those around her.

A Celebration of Life for Judy will be held at a later date.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home.

Photos, condolences, and memories may be left for Judy's family at www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com.

Dr. Chansin Yaung

Jan. 5, 1940 – May 6, 2026

Dr. Chansin Yaung passed away peacefully on May 6, 2026 in Chicago, Illinois, at the age of 86, following a three-and-a-half-year battle with cancer. He was surrounded by his beloved wife of 60 years and family.

Dr. Yaung was born on Jan. 5, 1940, in Manila, Philippines, as the fifth of eight children. He earned his medical degree from the prestigious University of Santo Tomas while also pursuing and marrying the love of his life. Together, they decided to move to the United States, where he began his medical career at Cook County Hospital in Chicago. He later completed his fellowship in gastroenterology at Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital in Detroit before joining Pawating Hospital in Niles, Michigan, where he dedicated the remainder of his career to serving the community.

Dr. Yaung cherished his family and his home along the river until the very end. He found joy in the quiet pursuits of reading non-fiction, vegetable gardening, listening to music, fixing everything around the home, and raising animals, especially poultry. Towards the end of his life, he and his wife Lolita spent more time in Chicago to be surrounded and cared for by his children and grandchildren. Despite this, Niles always remained close to his heart, and he returned whenever he could.

Dr. Chansin Yaung is survived by his wife, Lolita Yaung, and their children and families: Devin (Angel) and their son Caleb; Dan (Tricia) and their children Erin, Ella, Anna; Steven (Rachel Lee) and their children Lia, Eva, Luna; Kim (Kerry) Grady and their daughter Mia; and Joyce (Matt Bayer)and their children Samara, Avi, and Seraphina. The family will hold a service to honor Dr. Yaung's life on May 30 at 3:30 p.m., at First Baptist Church in Niles, Michigan.

Death notices

Johnnie M. Simpson, 99, of Vandalia, died May 12, 2026, at Dowagiac. Wagner Family Funerals, Cassopolis

Wallace W. Swartz, 74, of Cassopolis, died May 15, 2026, at Cassopolis. Wagner Family Funerals, Cassopolis

Dianne Marie Russ

August 7, 1948 – May 9, 2026

Dianne Russ, 77, of Vandalia, Michigan, passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 9, 2026.

Dianne's life began on Aug. 7, 1948, in Brooklyn, New York, born to the late Carl Austin and June Alma Crequé. An intelligent and remarkably driven woman, Dianne had a rare ability to identify her goals and pursue them with unwavering determination. Early in her career, she served in the office of Mayor Daley in Chicago. She later began a long and successful tenure with GTE (later Verizon), where she started by answering phones and worked her way up to become the Regional Supervisor of Human Resources.

Beyond her professional achievements, Dianne was a woman of immense creative talent. She was an exceptional seamstress, crafting clothing for her sons and exquisite gowns for Tuma's Bridal Shop in Fort Wayne. Her skills were legendary; she could repair almost anything, from delicate curtains to family blankets. Dianne was also a gifted artist with a sharp eye for fashion and a lifelong love for puzzles and games. She spent countless hours challenging her sons to Scrabble, board games, and crossword puzzles.

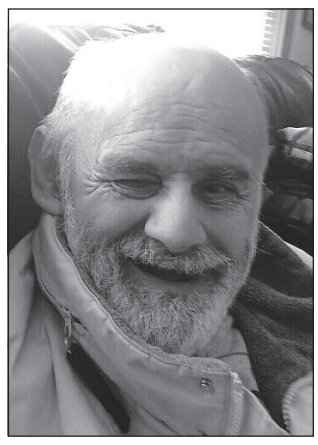
A true animal lover, Dianne felt a connection to every dog she met. Though she lived in many places throughout her life, she found her true "safe place" and home at Paradise Lake in Vandalia, Michigan. It was there that she built a legacy of family memories that will endure for generations.

Dianne is survived by her two sons, James Douglas Mathews and Andrew Benton Russ, both of Fort Wayne; four grandchildren, Iyanna Janaé, Russ, Aliya Marie Mathews, Nevaeh Reneé Russ, and Arya Teshay Russ; her brother, Carl Austin and (Karran E.) Crequé of Flossmoor, Illinois; two nieces, Taja Beane and Kylah Eagan; and two stepdaughters, Aryann Kristine Vasser and Darice Russ.

The family will gather for a private remembrance to honor her life. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Wagner Family Funerals, Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis.

Steven John Schuur

July 29, 1960 – May 9, 2026



Steven John Schuur, 65, of Decatur, died Saturday, May 9, 2026.

His life began July 29, 1960, in Dowagiac, Michigan, to Bob and Louise Schuur. He married the love of his life, Sally A. Lane, in October of 1997.

Steve and Sally enjoyed attending community events together, including Bingo, Spring Fling, the Apple Festival, the Cass County Fair, and many local parades. They also loved thrift shopping for collectibles. In his younger years, Steven proudly participated in the Special Olympics.

Steve will be deeply missed by all who knew him. He is survived by his wife of twenty-eight years, Sally A. Schuur of Decatur; his stepmother, Donna Schuur of Dowagiac; his father-in-law, Thomas Rutherford of Cassopolis; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents and mother-in-law, Sylvia Rutherford.

Family and friends will gather for a memorial service Thursday, May 21, at 4 p.m., in Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis. Steve will be laid to rest in Riverside Cemetery, Dowagiac.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com

Obituary policy

Leader Publications publishes death notices at a cost of $25, or free with obituary purchase. Extended obituaries are priced based on word count.

For more information, or to submit an obituary, email obits@leaderpub.com.

County clerk to recuse herself from recall proceedings

By PMG STAFF

CASS COUNTY — Cass County Clerk/Register of Deeds Monica McMichael announced she will formally recuse herself from Penn Township recall proceedings scheduled for June 1.

The Cass County Election Commission is scheduled to meet at noon that day to rule on a request to withdraw recall language submitted on May 14, and review recall language submitted on May 18. Both requests involved offices of Penn Township supervisor, treasurer and trustee.

Under Michigan law, recall petitions are reviewed for clarity and factual accuracy by an election commission comprised of the county clerk, the chief probate judge and the county treasurer. After Vandalia Village President Evan Hickman challenged McMichael's role in the process Wednesday morning due to familial ties to a Penn Township trustee, she agreed to recuse herself.

"While I am not legally required to recuse myself from this process, I believe stepping aside from election commission responsibilities is the best way to ensure the recall election is conducted as smoothly, efficiently and transparently as possible," McMichael said. "My priority is maintaining public confidence in the integrity of the process and allowing staff to focus fully on administering the election without unnecessary distractions or concerns about perceived conflicts."

MCL 116 of 1954 delegates authority of the clerk to other deputies in their office. If the clerk is unable to fulfill a statutory duty for any reason, one of these deputies may serve in the clerk's stead.

Following the same process, the election commission previously approved recall language involving the office of Vandalia Village President.

The three-person commission unanimously determined the language was factual and clear, which permitted the sponsor to circulate a petition to gather 25 percent of the votes cast for all candidates for the office of governor. The circuit court judge denied two appeals made by Hickman, upholding the ruling made by the election commission.

Hickman challenged all 18 signatures submitted. County legal counsel provided a legal opinion that the challenges were not valid, so McMichael denied the challenges and scheduled the recall election for the General Election Nov. 3.

Those wishing to run for the office of Vandalia Village President may file with the Penn Township Clerk until 4 p.m. on May 28.

Double voting

The Clerk's Office stated in a news release that it is aware of statements circulating on social media alleging that an individual voted twice in Cass County and that the matter prompted an investigation by the Michigan Attorney General, stating that the claims are inaccurate.

"The Clerk's Office is not aware of any instance of double voting in Cass County, and no investigation by the Attorney General involving this office has occurred in connection with such allegations," the release stated. "The Clerk's Office takes its responsibilities in administering elections seriously. Any credible allegation of election misconduct would be promptly reviewed and, if warranted, referred to the appropriate authorities. At this time, there is no factual basis supporting the claims being shared."

Duggan suspends campaign for Michigan governor

Former Detroit mayor cites toxic political climate in ending his run as an independent

By COREY WILLIAMS
Associated Press

DETROIT — Former Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan said Thursday that he is suspending his campaign for Michigan governor citing an increasingly "toxic" political climate due to President Donald Trump's war with Iran and skyrocketing gas prices.

Duggan, a longtime Democrat, was running as an independent to replace Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer who can't run again due to term limits. He told The Associated Press that it was going to be "very hard to win" as the Democrats who would have supported him are galvanizing against what's going on in Washington.

"Democrat anger against Trump and Republicans is extremely high," Duggan said. "In 60 days there's been a huge change in the attitudes of this country. People are feeling the pain at the pump and are angry about it."

An independent has never served as Michigan governor and third-party candidates typically don't fare well in elections for the state's top seat. To Duggan, who shunned partisan fighting while choosing to run as an independent, it was clear the odds were stacking against his campaign.

"As long as I knew there was a path for victory, I was going to fight," he said. "I don't see a likely path to win."

Toxic partisan politics

Since the beginning of the war with Iran in late February, oil prices have spiked more than 50 percent. As of Thursday, the price of regular unleaded gas in Michigan averaged $4.74 per gallon, according to AAA Michigan. That's above the $4.56 national average. A year ago, the average in Michigan was $3.13. Nationally, it was $3.18.

Trump repeatedly has said gas prices will go down once the war ends without acknowledging when that might happen.

Nationally, Trump's approval rating on the economy has dropped slightly since the start of the Iran war, according to AP-NORC polling. A recent AP-NORC poll conducted in May found that even Republicans are unhappier with Trump's handling of the economy than they were a few months ago, even as they're largely continuing to stand behind him. About 6 in 10 Republicans approve of how Trump is handling the economy, down from about 8 in 10 before the war began.

Duggan believed he was trailing Democratic Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson and Republican U.S. Rep. John James in the governor's race. Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson also is running as a Democrat, while millionaire businessman Perry Johnson is running as a Republican.

Michigan's primary election will be held Aug. 4, while the general election is Nov. 3.

In December 2024, Duggan announced his pursuit of the state's top office surprising many when he also said he'd choose the independent route instead of sticking with the Democratic Party.

Duggan told The AP at that time that he wanted to offer Michigan voters "a choice."

"It's clear to me that there are a lot of people in this country who are tired of both parties and tired of the system," Duggan said then. "You have a (state) legislature that's almost evenly divided that makes the stakes of each issue become magnified. It has gotten harder and harder to address things as the partisan climate has gotten more toxic."

His decision to run as an independent came as Michigan was one of a handful of swing states that helped Trump in November 2024 win a second term in the White House.

"I've done everything I know how to do for almost a year and a half," Duggan said Thursday. "You could feel the mood of this state wanting the toxic partisanship to end. They wanted the parties to work together."

Targeted by his former party

Duggan spent a dozen years as Detroit mayor. He first was elected in November 2013 as the city was going through its painful and historic bankruptcy while being run by a state-appointed emergency manager. The former county prosecutor and medical center executive became Detroit's first white mayor since Coleman A. Young was elected in the early 1970s as its first Black mayor.

Michigan student to be first woman to represent U.S. at world welding competition

By MIKE HOUSEHOLDER
Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Growing up, Mikala Sposito dreamed of being a trailblazer.

"I always wanted to be the first female to do something," she said.

That dream is about to be realized.

The 21-year-old from Dexter, Michigan, will be the first woman to represent the United States in welding at the WorldSkills Competition in China.

Sposito, a student at Washtenaw Community College, earned the coveted spot by winning the USA Weld Trials in Huntsville, Alabama, earlier this year.

"It was very, very close the whole time, but I was the one who made it to Shanghai," Sposito said.

Described as the Olympics of the skilled trades, WorldSkills determines the globe's best in technical disciplines that include construction, information technology, manufacturing and robotics.

And, of course, welding.

Mike Householder / AP

Student Mikala Sposito welds at Washtenaw Community College on Friday, May 1, 2026, in Ann Arbor., Mich.

Sposito is the sixth Washtenaw Community College student to qualify in WorldSkills history. WCC has produced more WorldSkills welding alums than any other school in the United States, the Ann Arbor college said. One of them, Alex Pazkowski, who finished second in 2013, is Sposito's instructor and mentor.

He accompanied her to the American championships in Alabama and also will be her coach at a series of competitions that will take them from Canada to Australia in the months leading up to WorldSkills in September.

Add to that 80 hours of welding practice per week at WCC, and Sposito has "a long, hard road" ahead of her, Pazkowski said.

"But at the end of the day, if you're successful, it's gonna open up all kinds of doors for you," he said.

She will be evaluated on technical execution and craftsmanship under stiff time constraints and stringent international standards.

Sposito said she's looking forward to putting up her skills against the world's best. And traveling abroad, which she hasn't done previously.

As for the "first" aspect, she said: "I don't see the gender aspect of it.

"I mean, welding doesn't take any brute strength or anything. It's actually very fine and precise."

But she does recognize that women are minority participants in a discipline she fell in love with at age 10. And if her world-class success joining together metals using heat and pressure helps pave the way for future welders, then all the better.

"Being the first female to do it is very cool," said Sposito, whose near-term goal is to earn her bachelor's degree in welding engineering at Wayne State University in Detroit. Long-term, she might like to follow in Pazkowski's footsteps and teach at WCC.

Either way, she's happy to be "inspirational for many women in the trades who have possibly struggled."

Higher fuel prices have some Americans scaling back Memorial Day travel plans

By RIO YAMAT
AP Airlines and Travel Writer

As someone who is "not the best person with bugs and stuff," Stephanie Bernaba never imagined herself becoming an outdoorsy mom.

But the mother of three is getting more daring as gas prices and other travel costs make vacations more expensive. Her family has traded pricier trips, such as long summer stays in Florida and an annual Disney World visit around her birthday, for local beaches, bike rides and hiking trails near their home in coastal Rhode Island.

"I've been trying to do more of that because one, it's quality time. Two, it's fresh air. And three, we're not spending an arm and a leg," Bernaba, 47, said.

That kind of calibration is shaping the summer travel season, which gets its traditional start in the U.S. with the long Memorial Day holiday weekend. Higher fuel prices resulting from the Iran war and other inflationary pressures are making most forms of travel costlier as people in many parts of the world form their plans.

The U.S. Travel Association expects annual travel spending to grow by a modest 1 percent this year, powered largely by domestic leisure travel despite the FIFA World Cup giving soccer fans from other countries a reason to visit the U.S. Airfares have climbed around the world along with the price of jet fuel as the war constrains global oil supplies.

Sticking closer to home may not cushion the sticker shock. The nonprofit Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy estimated Americans would collectively spend an extra $3.5 billion on gasoline over the holiday weekend. The average price for a gallon of regular gas in the U.S. was $4.56 on Thursday compared to $3.18 a year ago, according to motor club AAA.

Other travel expenses have gone up too. The latest consumer price index showed airfares were 20.7 percent higher in April from a year earlier, the cost of intracity transit such as buses and subways rose 5.6 percent, lodging cost 4.3 percent more, and eating out got 3.6 percent pricier.

Changing travel patterns

Despite elevated prices, industry forecasts suggest Americans still want to get away, even if it means replacing long trips with long weekends, choosing destinations closer to home and finding ways to cut costs by cooking meals or using buses and trains instead of driving.

AAA predicted that 45 million U.S. residents would travel at least 50 miles from home between Thursday and Monday for the holiday. The Transportation Security Administration said it expects to screen 18.3 million passengers from Thursday to next Wednesday.

Many households are planning summer vacations but making tradeoffs such as shorter trips or cheaper lodging, according to Bank of America analysts. Mastercard said in a recent report that consumers appeared increasingly focused on value and were adjusting their destinations and timing instead of not going away at all.

"Generally, it's certainly more of a demand reshuffling than a demand softening," David Tinsley, a senior economist at Bank of America Institute, said.

For the Bernaba family, that has meant trading a big vacation for a shorter trip nearby this summer. Their scaled-back itinerary still is pricey: more than $400 for a ferry to Martha's Vineyard for their car and passengers, and about $800 a night for each of the two hotel rooms the family of five needs.

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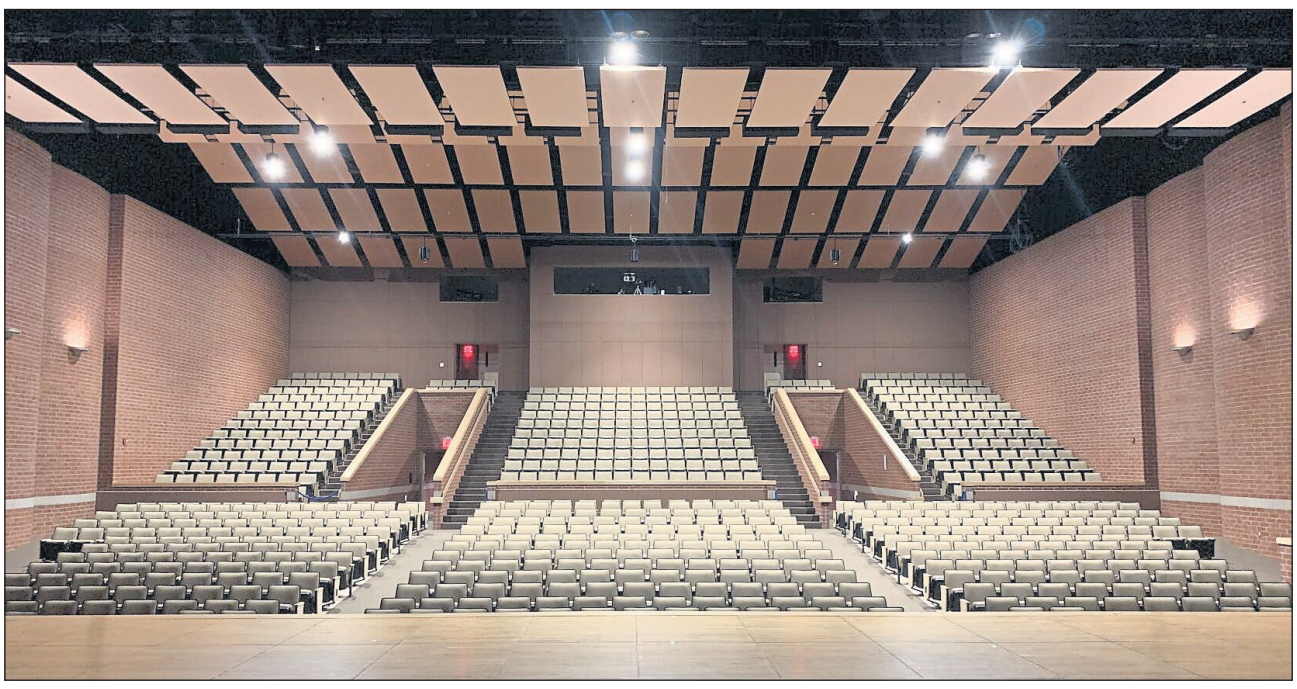

Photo provided

Dowagiac's Board of Education approved the purchase of an audio system for the middle school's Performing Arts Center.

Dowagiac school board OKs equipment purchases, discusses grade level centers

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — A new audio system is coming to the Dowagiac Middle School Performing Arts Center and new bottle filling stations will soon be installed in buildings disttrict-wide.

The Dowagiac Union Schools Board of Education approved Monday the purchase of an audio system for the Performing Arts Center in the amount of $55,321.66.

According to Blomgren, the district received $33,000 through grant funds from the state to go toward the cost, as well as funds from the Dowagiac Education Foundation raised via fundraisers. The remaining cost, approximately $22,000, will come out of the district's Capital Projects Account.

"That's needed if we don't get any more outside resources or funding to help pay for the difference, but a great upgrade for the PAC here," he said.

The board also approved the purchase of bottle filling stations for the Dowagiac Union Schools buildings in the amount of $136,500. Michigan law requires filtered drinking water at all schools and daycare centers. Blomgren said the district was awarded $204,000 for the completion of the project and will use leftover funds to buy replacement filters and holders for the district.

In other business, the board approved several new hires: Stephanie Cooper-Tucker, DUHS Math; Emily Glynn, Superintendent's Secretary/ HR Assistant; Alicea Cole, Elementary EL teacher; Jennifer Hutchins, Elementary Early Childhood Special Ed. teacher; Amy Steinman, Elementary Social Worker/ Counselor.

The board also approved the transfer of several teachers to new roles: Kelly Price, DMS Math; Deb Wegner, DMS Math; Colleen Baten, DMS English; Shannon Hatch, Elementary Instructional Coach; Tami Walling, Elementary Title 1 Teacher; Catherine Glassman, Elementary Art Teacher; Nanette Roach, Elementary Title 1 Teacher.

Blomgren said that the district's recent personnel have helped create new positions and generate grant funds for the district.

"We can't say enough about the leadership teams as they go through the interview process," Blomgren said. "I think getting out in front of some of the other districts who will be looking for quality people here as the school year wraps up assisted in that. We feel very strongly about the quality candidates and people we brought on to our district staff this year. We are excited about what that's going to do for our kids for the next several years, so very positive news there."

School board discusses grade level centers, welcomes new board member

Superintendent Greg Blomgren said that grade level center planning continues to move along. He shared that the most recent developments were the elementary staff and grade-level teachers creating class lists for next year.

"We needed to get those completed over the last week," he said. "The facility met about three or four times to discuss the movements to create grade-level centers. I think they created good fourth-grade class lists for next year in our center, so I'm excited that they were completed."

Blomgren said that transportation will have an impact in regards to school start times and how those will work and that more details will come as the district gets closer to the planning of the start of next school year.

Additionally, Blomgren said the district will soon begin the movement process for class materials and supplies.

"We'll give them a couple weeks after school's out, and then we're going to hire some temporary movers for the summer, five-week positions, to help us transport all the different materials so the teachers are ready to go by the end of July," he said. "We'll have a solid, clear timeline to get back to school if they want to get into the classroom as we get close to that."

Blomgren praised Dowagiac Union Principal Kelly Millin and her staff for their work putting together both the Senior Honors Night and commencement ceremony. This year's honors event was held at the Performing Arts Center for the first time.

The school board also welcomed the board's newest member, Taylor Philips, to the board. Philips fills the vacant seat left by Stephanie Cooper-Tucker, who was officially hired as a Dowagiac high school math teacher during the meeting. Phillips accepted the role and was appointed by the Board of Education Friday, May 15.

"Through the application and interview process, Taylor impressed the board of education with his passion and commitment to our school community," Blomgren said.

CASSOPOLIS

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The proposed 2026-2027 Budget Resolution also failed at the regular meeting, with Trustees Makay, Kelly, and Pedersen voting against approval. It was later approved at the special meeting.

After concerns were raised regarding the village's financial condition, Village Manager Emilie LaGrow explained there was no financial shortfall in the village and that a ten year snapshot provided to the council showed increases in taxable value and tax collection without an increase to the Village millage rate. According to LaGrow, Cassopolis has experienced approximately 375 percentt growth in tax revenues through strategic investment and development efforts during that period. The proposed budget was reviewed in detail, with projects and expenses, including replacement equipment for the Department of Public Works, road projects including South Rowland Street, Jefferson Street and Water Street as well as a standard 3 percent wage increase for staff discussed.

In an emailed statement, Pederson said that he felt that both the Headlee Rollback and the proposed 2026-2027 budget resolution he voted against did not reflect the best interests of Cassopolis residents. He questioned the salaried increases for some staff and not others, adding staff positions and the large increases in debt and interest payments in the proposed budget. He also expressed his disappointment in the instant and possibly illegal do-over Wednesday afternoon.

"There is ample time to revisit the budget and tax increase at regularly scheduled meeting times and dates," he said. "Calling a meeting with less than 24 hours' notice, at mid-afternoon, to go 'two out of three,' overturning a previous Council vote, is really poor form.'"

Makay also communicated similar concerns and frustration with the scheduling of the special meeting.

A Sewer Rate Increase Resolution was also introduced and approved at the special meeting. The increase is based on a required rate study by financial professionals and was explained as necessary for the force main project aimed at addressing several ongoing failures in the village sewer system. The project is a shared capital replacement cost with the Cassopolis Area Utilities Authority.

LaGrow reported that the village received the Michigan State Housing Development Authority Legacy Award for work on more than 76 housing projects and securing more than $2 million in grant funding benefiting local homeowners. Cassopolis is the only community in Michigan to receive the award. LaGrow recognized village staff Tonia Williams, Alexis O'Flynn, and Heather Brown for their work on the programs.

Those present were reminded that Beach Bash will take place on June 5 and 6. A ribbon cutting ceremony for Phase 2 of the Beach Project will take place at 4 p.m. June 5.

The next regular council meeting will take place on Monday, June 8th at 6pm. The council will not have a workshop meeting in May due to the Memorial Day.

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Fundraiser supports Helping Hands and Dr. T.K. Lawless Park

By PMG STAFF

CASSOPOLIS — Sweet, smoked meats were be served up Wednesday to support local organizations.

The Social Justice Alliance of Cass County hosted a BBQ fundraiser Wednesday at the Helping Hands Pantry, 408 E. State St., Cassopolis in support of Helping Hands of Cass County and a memorial for Dr. T.K. Lawless Park. The event took place from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. until good sold out.

SJACC received donations over and above the BBQ fundraiser sales from the community.

Donation are still gratefully accepted by check to SJACC, PO Box 299, Cassopolis, MI 49031 or email socialjusticecass@gmail.com for debit/credit card options.

Founded in Cassopolis in 1984, Helping Hands provides food, clothing, medicine, transportation funds, household items and, on occasion, support for utilities to residents of Cass County.

Dr. T.K. Lawless Park was founded in honor of Dr. Theodore Kenneth Lawless. Born in 1892, Lawless was one of the first physicians to use radium in the treatment of skin cancers and other diseases, for which he won the Harmon Medical Award in 1929. He worked to find cures for leprosy and syphilis and was noted for his equal treatment of patients regardless of race or class.

Photos by E Scott Rose

GRADUATES

From page A1

and keep being kind," Behnke said. "The world doesn't just need smart people, it needs people with the heart, courage and the determination to make a difference. As we step into the next chapter, let's not be afraid of failure, let's not be afraid of change and most importantly, let's not forget who we are and what we're capable of becoming.

"So class of 2026, let's go out there and build something worth remembering. Let's prove that this isn't the end of our story – it's just the beginning."

"To the class of 2026, we are about to start a new chapter in our lives, one in which doesn't include each other," McDonald said. "We are going to be separated from people that we have been in school with since preschool. The change is going to be hard but it is important. It is important because it is necessary for us to grow beyond each other in order to reach our fullest potential. We will make new friends at college, in the workforce or in the military. We have learned so much, not just from books and assignments, but from each other. So let's use everything we've learned here and make our mark on the world.

"Make sure to be brave, work hard and never quit. On Dowagiac."

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Sports

Dowagiac soccer wins Lakeland title
Page B5

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Buchanan golf wins BCS/Lakeland title

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

Buchanan locked up the BCS/Lakeland Conference golf championship on Tuesday by winning the league tournament at Indian Lake Hills in Eau Claire.

The Bucks had a team score of 346 to edge runner-up Berrien Springs, which shot 363. Brandywine was third with a 377 while Our Lady of the Lake took fourth with a 401. Red Arrow (River Valley/New Buffalo) finished fifth with 402, Howardsville sixth with 419 and Dowagiac seventh with 420.

Buchanan's Tyler Fram won medalist honors with a score of 82.

LAKELAND CONFERENCE JAMBOREE

At Indian Lake Hills

Team scores – 1. Buchanan 346, 2. Berrien Springs 363, 3. Brandywine 377, 4. Our Lady of the Lake 401, 5. Red Arrow 402, 6. Howardsville 419, 7. Dowagiac 420.

Medalist – Tyler Frame 82

Buchanan – Tyler Frame 82, Austin Gregory 86, Dean Wegner 88, Jacob Kuntz 90.

Berrien Springs – Carson Tripp 84, Cade Mihalik 90, Luke Hildebrand 93, Kameron Sill 96.

Brandywine – Jayden Thomas 86, Blake Magyar 94, Davis Lotsbaich 97, Brady Schoff 100.

Our Lady of the Lake – Jack Boston 85, Connor Siglow 104, Mark Pyne 104, Billy Boston 108.

Red Arrow – Benjamin Elder 95, Jackson Neubauer 96, Max Gotcher 103, Kyle Vanhook 108.

Howardsville – Elijah Bacon 93, Lukas Krueger 106, Jack Boylan 107, Micalah Gardner 113.

Dowagiac – Jeremiah Bond 83, Mason Ausra 110, Emmett Roach 113, James Greene 114.

Photo provided
The Buchanan boys golf team won the BCS/Lakeland Conference title Tuesday at Indian Lake Hills.

Athletes qualify for state at D2 track regionals

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

STURGIS — Area athletes turned in strong performances Friday at the Division 2 regional track meet in Sturgis.

The Lakeshore girls won the regional title with 89.33 points and the Otsego took the boys crown with 84.33 points. On the boys' side, Edwardsburg placed third with 75.5 points and had state qualifiers in six events. Ethan Ferguson took first place in the 1600-meter run with a time of 4:30.44 to narrowly beat teammate George Scupham who finished in 4:30.93.

Berrien Springs finished fifth with 71 points. Braelin Hurst won the 100-meter dash (10.73) and anchored the Shamrocks' winning 400 relay (42.61) and 800 relay (1:30.10) teams.

The Bears of St. Joseph placed eighth with 40 points. Leading St. Joseph was Chase Bingaman, who won the high jump with a leap of 21-8.25. Right behind St. Joseph was Lakeshore with 39 points. Declin Doroh made history with a school-record leap of 7-0 in high jump, the 12th-ranked height in the country according to Athletic.net.

Niles' 400 relay team of Vaughn Asmus, Alex Anderson, Gunner Sherer and Ben Bruckner qualified for state with a second place time of 43.23 while Benton Harbor's squad of Howard Richardson, JaMichael Kirby, Maurice Jackson and Kobe Singleton also qualified with a fourth place time of 43.5.

On the girls' side, Lakeshore took first place in the 800 (Leigha Whitman, Rorie Tippetts, Addison Marquardt, Lucy Cross), 1600 (Kate Ort, Cross, Abbie Luckman, Tippetts) and 3200-meter (Ort, Luckman, Lydia Dwyer, Marley Momany) relays. Leigha Whitman won the long jump with a leap of 18-4. St. Joseph's Trenyse McGinnis took first place in both the 100 (12.08) and 200 (24.68) while Edwardsburg's Sarah Pippin won the high jump with a leap of 5-5. Berrien Springs 400 relay team of Adeline Weber, Zion Ellis, Anoah Hamilton and Felicity Hall took first in 49.57 and Dowagiac's Nadia Poorman qualified in both 100 (16.05) and 300 (48.68) hurdles. Dowagiac's 400 relay team of Shamyra Clark, Ella Richter, Khamari Mack and Poorman also qualified for state with a time of 51.34.

Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications
Edwardsburg's Gio Orue (left) and Mobius Stubblefield (right) placed third and second in the 100-meter dash final to qualify for state Friday at the Division 2 regional meet in Sturgis.

DIVISION 2 REGIONAL MEET

At Sturgis

Boys

Team scores – 1. Otsego 84.83, 2. Three Rivers 79, 3. Edwardsburg 75.5, 4. Vicksburg 74, 5. Berrien Springs 71, 6. Coldwater 64.33, 7. Paw Paw 43, 8. St. Joseph 40.33, 9. Lakeshore 39, 10. (tie) Sturgis 25, Plainwell 25, 12. Niles 18, 13. Benton Harbor 13, 14. Allegan 6, 15. Dowagiac 1.

Area qualifiers

100 – 1. Braelin Hurst (BSp) 10.73, 2. Mobius Stubblefield (E) 10.86, 3. Gio Orue (E) 10.95, 4. JaMichael Kirby 10.96, 6. Kobe Singleton; 200 – 4. Declin Doroh (L) 22.52, 5. Zi'Merian Jones (BSp) 22.59; 800 – 2. Ethan Ferguson (E) 1:59.51; 4. George Scupham (E) 2:00.25; 1600 – 1. Ethan Ferguson (E) 4:30.44, 2. George Scupham (E) 4:30.93; 300 hurdles – 1. Louis Rome (BSp) 39.05; 400 relay – 1. Berrien Springs (Isaiah Belizaire, Walter Williams, Zi'Merian Jones, Braelin Hurst) 42.61, 2. Niles (Vaughn Asmus, Alex Anderson, Gunner Sherer, Ben Bruckner) 43.23, 4. Benton Harbor (Howard Richardson, JaMichael Kirby, Maurice Jackson, Kobe Singleton) 43.50, 5. St. Joseph (Phoenix Lignell, Reese Crawford, Chase Bingaman, Kavion Buchanan) 43.71; 800 relay – 1. Berrien Springs (Zi'Merian Jones, Louis Rome, Walter Williams, Braelin Hurst) 1:30.10, 4. St. Joseph (Henry Robinson, Josh Scharich, Reece Crawford, Chase Bingaman) 1:31.00; 1600 relay – 4. Edwardsburg (Lyle Schaible, Mobius Stubblefield, George Scupham, Jack Bell) 3:28.93, 5. St. Joseph (Josh Sharich, Henry Robinson, Seth Randall, Matthew LaPorte) 3:29.48; shot put – 5. Nathan Wagner (L) 49-9, 6. Jacob Constable (BSp) 48-5; high jump – 1. Declin Doroh (L) 7-0, 2. Zachary Overmyer (E) 6-6, 4. Desten Gregory (E) 6-2, 4. Joseph Quao (BSp) 6-2, 4. Landon Boomershine (E) 6-2, 7. Ethan Haas (E) 6-2; pole vault – 2. Darrin O'Dell (BSp) 13-5, 3. Lucas Frentz (E) 13-2; long jump – 1. Chase Bingaman (SJ) 21-8.25, 2. Cole Getz (Lakeshore) 20-3.25.

Girls

Team scores – 1. Stevensville Lakeshore 89.33, 2. Sturgis 75.5, 3. Otsego 74, 4. Coldwater 62.33, 5. St. Joseph 51, 6. Vicksburg 47.83, 7. Edwardsburg 46, 8. Berrien Springs 45.33, 9. Three Rivers 43, 10. Allegan 33, 11. Paw Paw 30.33, 12. Niles 18, 13. Benton Harbor 13, 14. South Haven 1.

Area qualifiers

100 – 1. Trenyse McGinnis (SJ) 12.08; 3. Lucy Cross (L) 12.51; 4. Alani Scott (N) 12.62; 5. DeAria Evans (BS) 12.64; 200 – 1. Trenyse McGinnis (SJ) 24.68; 3. Lucy Cross (L) 25.42; 400 – 3. Alani Scott (N) 59.75. 800 – 1. Kate Ort (L) 2:11.33; 2. Abbie Luckman (L) 2:16.34; 1600 – 3. Lydia Dwyer (L) 5:17.91; 3200 – 3. Grace Leman (E) 11:37.81; 100 hurdles – 2. Zion Ellis (BSp) 14.96; 4. Sarina Mora (E) 15.59; 5. Nadia Poorman (D) 16.05; 300 hurdles – 1. Adeline Weber (BSp) 46.79, 4. Charlotte Steel (SJ) 47.75, 7. Nadia Poorman (D) 48.68; 400 relay – 1. Berrien Springs (Adeline Weber, Zion Ellis, Anoah Hamilton, Felicity Lall) 49.57; 6. Stevensville Lakeshore (Leah Garrity, Rorie Tippetts, Addison Marquardt, Lucy Cross) 51.31, 7. Dowagiac (Shamyra Clark, Ella Richter, Khamari Mack, Nadia Poorman) 51.34; 800 relay – 1. Lakeshore (Leigha Whitman, Rorie Tippetts, Addison Marquardt, Lucy Cross) 1:45.70; 2. Berrien Springs (Anoah Hamilton, Zion Ellis, Adeline Weber, Felicity Lall) 1:46.21; 1600 relay – 1. Lakeshore (Kate Ort, Lucy Cross, Abbie Luckman, Rorie Tippetts) 4:01.75; 3200 relay – 1. Lakeshore (Kate Ort, Abbie Luckman, Lydia Dwyer, Marley Momany) 9:52.53, 2. Edwardsburgg (Layla Gableman, Grace Leman, Jade Leith, Georgia Babcock) 10:15.27; high jump – 1. Sarah Pippin (Edwardsburg) 5-5; 1. Leigha Whitman (L) 18-4, 2. Sarina Mora (E) 17-1.25, 5. DeAria Evans (BH) 1 6-5.

Gus Macker registration open for BH tourney

By LOUISE WREGE
Paxton Media Group

BENTON HARBOR — The excitement is growing as Gus Macker 3-on-3 Basketball returns to Benton Harbor in June after a more than 20-year hiatus.

Registration is now open through Monday, June 8, for four-person teams from the ages of 8 to 80 to sign up at https://macker.com/local/benton-harbor-st-joe-mi for the tournament, which is June 27-28.

Teams are matched based on the players' age, height and basketball experience, said Scott "Gus Macker" McNeal, who started the tournament in 1974 in his mother's driveway in Lowell.

McNeal said the tournament is a community event meant for everyone, even if they don't play basketball.

"When you come to one of our events, there's a food festival going on, there's music being played, there's special events going on – could be a 3-point or free throw contest," McNeal said last Friday after visiting the tournament site along Riverview Drive in Benton Harbor. "... It's a great spectator sport and a lot of fun."

Depending on how many teams sign up, he said they anticipate needing 16-20 courts, along with a Sports Court, where the top men's or top women's bracket will play.

"It has a sports court surface and it's a bigger court," he said.

McNeal said some of the youth games are chosen at random to play on what they call the Dream Court.

"We have a sound system and we have benches and we play music and introduce the teams and the crowd comes out and forms a tunnel down the middle," McNeal said. "Once you see it, you're going to fall in love with it. The event has kind of become a family, youth festival."

He said the games on the Dream Court have people announcing them.

"My hobby, along with a few of my friends who are working on the tournament, is to announce games like we're on the radio," he said.

At the end of the Dream Court games, McNeal said they interview their choice for MVP.

Teams are guaranteed three games in a double elimination format.

The tournament is being brought back to Benton Harbor as a fundraiser by Harbor Impact Foundation, a nonprofit founded by Benton Harbor native Rodney Alexander Jr., who returned to his hometown after retiring from professional basketball overseas.

Louise Wrege / HP staff
The Gus Macker 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament returns to Benton Harbor in June.

For more information, go to https://harborimpact foundation.org.

Sponsors of the event are the city of Benton Harbor, Harbor Impact Foundation, Corewell Health and Four Winds Casinos.

Contact: lwrege@TheHP.com, 932-0361, Twitter: @HPWrege

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OUTDOORS

Submitting hunting or fishing photos

Have a behemoth buck, a tremendous turkey or super-sized salmon? Please submit photos to sports@TheHP.com.

Your photo must be in focus, all persons in the photo must be identified, and the general location of the hunt must be provided (for example, 10-point buck shot in Benton Township, black bear shot near Munising, Mich., etc.)

Photo provided / Josh Duis

A glossy ibis (right) and four drake mallards on April 26, in a flooded field along Browntown Road in Lake Township.

Glossy ibis a rare local sighting

Jonathan Wuepper
Southwest Michigan Wildlife

Berrien County's second glossy ibis was discovered on April 26 along Date Road in Lake Township by Cassie Americarelli and Ashley Higdon, both of Weesaw Twp. The bird flew off to the south and was relocated within an hour along Browntown Road by Josh Duis of Niles.

The glossy ibis is a long-legged wading bird about two feet high. It sports a long, decurved bill designed to pick up insects, crustaceans and other aquatic invertebrates on which it feeds. Its plumage is brown with iridescent green wings. In flight, ibises extend their necks straight out and perform quick wingbeats.

In eastern North America, the glossy ibis' normal range is the southeastern Atlantic and Gulf coastal states. During spring, the species moves inland to nest. Usually during mid-to-late spring, a few glossy ibis will overshoot their summer range and wind up hundreds of miles north of their usual area, like the one found in Berrien County recently. These birds eventually find their way back south.

The glossy ibis found by Americarelli and Higdon was only the second record of the species for Berrien County. The first occurred on May 10, 1993 when a single glossy ibis was discovered in a large flooded field at the northeast corner of North Scottdale and Linco Roads in Royalton Township.

Cass County has a glossy ibis record of one individual photographed on May 4, 1969 in Lake LaGrange in LaGrange Township. This was the second ever state record of the species, coming 30 years after the first which occurred on June 4, 1939 in Bay County. To date, Michigan has about 50 records of the glossy ibis.

Photo provided / Brad Anderson

A male summer tanager molting into breeding plumage on April 26 at the feeders of Hanah and Brad Anderson of Bridgman.

Photo provided / Josh Duis

A male blue grosbeak along Basswood Road near the Forest Lawn Landfill in Three Oaks Township.

A male blue grosbeak has been seen and heard again along Basswood Road, between Forest Lawn and Martin Roads in Three Oaks Township. The male this year was discovered on April 30 by Adam Byrne of Dewitt, Michigan. A pair of adult blue grosbeaks were present at this same location last year with suspected nesting.

The blue grosbeak is a songbird common in summer across the southeastern U.S. and is apparently extending its summer range northward. The male blue grosbeak has dark dull blue feathers with chestnut wing bars, with a distinct conical bill, similar in size to our northern cardinal. The adult female appears brown with a conical bill. The male's song suggests a purple or house finch but slower.

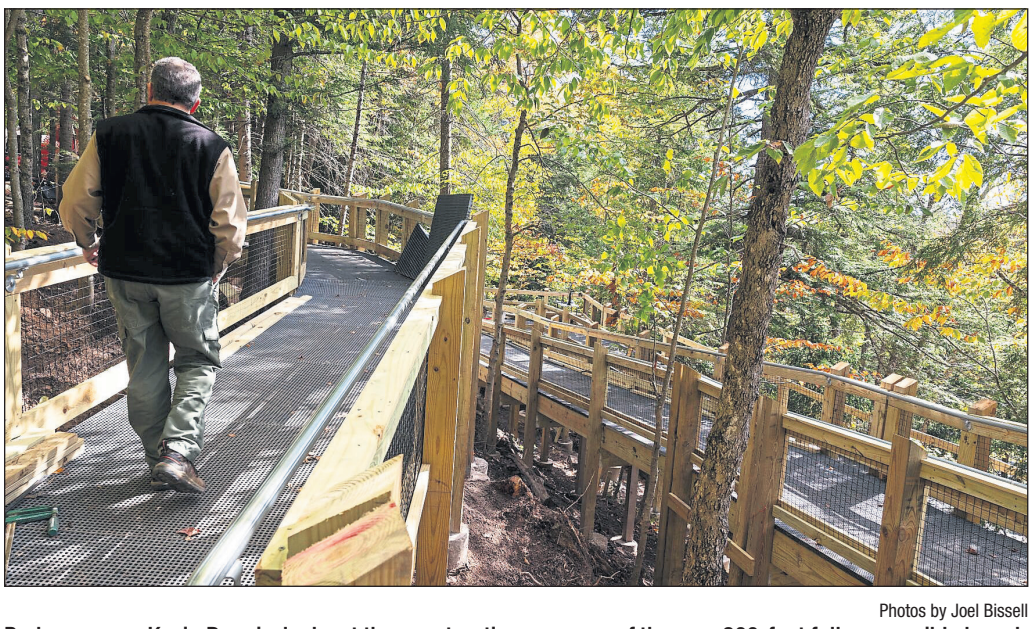
On April 26, a male summer tanager visited the feeders of Brad and Hannah Anderson of Bridgman. The bird was in the process of molting from its winter yellow-green plumage into its more attractive rosy-red summer plumage. This southern bird is apparently becoming more numerous north of its usual breeding range. At least one pair of summer tanagers have nested in Warren Dunes State Park over the last decade.

Jonathan Wuepper is an area naturalist. Report your sightings to him at wuepperj@gmail.com

Tahquamenon Falls opens new boardwalk for close-up view

By LINDSAY MOORE
mlive.com (TNS)

Park manager Kevin Dennis walks down the 94 metal stairs that were ripped out for the new 900-foot boardwalk project at Tahquamenon Falls State Park Upper Falls on Feb. 18, 2025.



Photos by Joel Bissell

Park manager, Kevin Dennis, looks at the construction progress of the new 900-foot fully accessible boardwalk at the Upper Falls at Tahquamenon Falls State Park in Michigan's Upper Peninsula on Oct. 7, 2025.

PARADISE — The roar of the Upper Falls in Tahquamenon Falls State Park has never felt closer. The state park has opened its new boardwalk to bring visitors closer to the iconic waterfall without having to climb the steep incline.

The fully accessible boardwalk celebrated its ribbon cutting May 14, after nearly two years of construction.

The new 900-foot winding boardwalk weaves through the forest canopies and brings visitors to the top of the 200-foot-wide Upper Falls.

The boardwalk replaces the steep 94-step metal staircase from the early 1990s.

Upgrading the section for better accessibility and erosion prevention has been a top priority for the Department of Natural Resources for nearly a decade, park manager Kevin Dennis told MLive in 2025.

The project was funded with $1.3 million in federal relief funds provided by the American Rescue Plan Act.

The federal funding, allocated to the DNR through Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's Building Michigan Together Plan, put the plan into motion in October 2024.

Construction crews from Holland, Mich., drove to the Upper Peninsula weekly to complete the project through all four seasons. Due to state and environmental protections, much of the work was done by hand because machinery is not allowed near the waterfall. The boardwalk features anti-slip surfacing and railings.

Sarett Nature Center

Sarett Nature Stewards: 2-4 p.m. each Wednesday. This program is a way to experience Sarett in a whole different way. By being a nature steward you are helping Sarett but you also gain a sense of well-being. Sarett's crew will teach you many different skills such as collecting viable seeds for future planting, how to identify invasive species from native ones, removing invasive plants, and more. Ages 10+.

Watervliet Rod & Gun Club

Ladies Day Basic Firearm Safety and Training Class: 8 a.m.-4 p.m. May 23 at the club, 3413 Hennessey Road in Watervliet. Ladies, here is your chance to learn to safely handle and use firearms, and learn about different kinds of ammunition and firearms. Have the opportunity to shoot .22 caliber handguns, rifles, and 20-gauge shotguns on the range with one-to-one instruction. Cost is $30. Lunch, firearms and ammo provided. Bring eye and ear protection. For more information, call (269) 470-9191 or (269) 861-5156, or email wrg49098@gmail.com.

Michigan Concealed Pistol Classes: Held monthly at the club. Cost is $100. For more info or to register, call (269) 470-9191 or (269) 463-8785, or go to watervlietrodandgunclub.org.

Email info for Get Outdoors to sports@TheHP.com, or call 429-1294 by Monday.

Gray wolf's California comeback continues

By CLARA HARTER
Los Angeles Times (TNS)

LOS ANGELES — After being hunted to extinction a century ago, gray wolves are continuing their remarkable comeback story in California, with state wildlife officials reporting a modern record number of the apex predators.

There were 55 wolves confirmed alive and nine wolf packs by the end of 2025, the majority of which are clustered in the northeastern portion of the state, according to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's annual wolf report, released Thursday. That is up from 50 wolves and seven packs the previous year.

"More wolf packs and more new territories are exactly what we'd want for a wolf population that's beginning to recover," Amaroq Weiss, a senior wolf advocate at the Center for Biological Diversity, said. "Wolves are a part of California's natural heritage."

Though the latest statistics bode well for the rebounding wolf population, the year was not without its challenges for the packs, as well as those who share their habitat.

The number of packs that were deemed breeding pairs – meaning they contained at least one adult male, an adult female and two pups – declined from five in 2024 to three in 2025. This drop was attributed partly to unsuccessful litters in the Lassen and Yowlumni packs, as well as the state's decision to euthanize four wolves from the Beyem Seyo pack in response to a spike in livestock attacks.

There were 267 investigations opened into wolf-livestock predation in 2025, up from 74 the previous year. Of the investigations opened last year, there were 198 livestock losses confirmed likely due to wolves, 90 of which were attributed to the Beyem Seyo pack – generating outrage from Sierra Valley ranchers.

A study from the UC Cooperative Extension calculated the economic toll of cattle attacks by the Beyem Seyo pack reached at least $2.6 million over just seven months of last year, a figure that includes the loss of livestock and interventions aimed at deterring attacks.

In addition to the four euthanized wolves, two wolves died from vehicle strikes, three were found dead of unknown causes, and three additional deaths are under investigation.

Classifieds Marketplace

SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP
May 13, 2026, Meeting Summary

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm and the pledge of allegiance was recited.
Board Members- All Present- Braman, Honn, Behnke, Barnes, Stockwell.
Agenda, Minutes, and Bills and Claims in the amount of $289,782.25 were approved.
The following motions were approved and resolutions were adopted:

A. Silver Creek Special Appropriations Act. B. Proposed Continuation/Renewal of Magician Lake Aquatic Weed Control Special Assessment District 2026-2030. C. Fire Service Contracts. D. Did Not approve the purchase of tax reverted property. E. Armor Pest Contract. F. Orchard Hill Landfill passes. G. New AED purchase. H. Moving $4000 between contingencies and office equipment. I. Charitable Gaming License J. Charitable Gaming License.

Public comment was offered and heard.
Board entered closed session at 7:17pm and resumed open session at 8:58pm.
Motion was made and carried to acknowledge and accept the recommendation of counsel.
Board accepted Honn's resignation from Russom Park Board.
Meeting adjourned at 9:07pm.
Detailed minutes are available on the township website: www.silvercreektwpmi.gov
Next Regular Meeting is June 10, 2026, at 6:30pm.

JESS HONN, CLERK

NOTICE OF PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING
WAYNE TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO THE RESIDENTS OF AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WAYNE, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Wayne Township Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on June 11, 2026, at 7:00 P.M. in the Wayne Township Hall located at 53950 Glenwood Road to consider issuing a conditional use permit for Shane & Maranda Wallace regarding parcel #14-150-010-016-00, located at 51296 Sharp St., Dowagiac, MI 49047.This will allow for a temporary extension and/or permission for a home occupation that has grown quickly and needs additional space.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that written comments concerning the above matters may be mailed to the Wayne Township Clerk, Attention Planning Commission, 53950 Glenwood Rd., Dowagiac, MI 49047, at any time prior to this public hearing and may further be submitted to the Planning Commission at said public hearing.

All interested persons are invited to be present at the previously mentioned time and place to be heard with respect to this matter.

This notice is served and posted in compliance with Public Act 267 of 1976, as amended; the Open Meetings Act; MCLA 41.72a (2)(3); Americans with Disabilities Act and The Wayne Township Zoning Ordinance.

Wayne Township will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the meeting/hearing to individuals with disabilities, upon reasonable notice to the Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services should contact the Township in writing at: Michelle Smith, Wayne Township Clerk, 53950 Glenwood Rd., Dowagiac, MI 49047, by phone at 269-782-7017 or by email at: clerksmith.waynetwp@gmail.com

Michelle Smith, Clerk, Wayne Township

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, Michigan starting promptly at 10:00 a.m. on June 3, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Mortgage (the "Mortgage") made by Patrick J. Brodzinski, a single man, as Mortgagor to First Federal Savings Bank, with its address at 301 East Ninth Street, Rochester, IN, 46975-0527 as Mortgagee, dated February 13, 2009, and recorded February 24, 2009, Liber 989, Page 2381, Cass County Records, Cass County, Michigan. The balance owing on the Mortgage is $48,105.42 at the time of this Notice. The Mortgage contains a power of sale and no suit or proceeding at law or in equity has been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, or any part of the Mortgage. The Mortgagee will apply the sale proceeds to the debt secured by the Mortgage as stated above, plus interest on the amount due at the fixed rate of 5% per annum; all legal costs and expenses, including attorney fees allowed by law; and also any amount paid by the Mortgagee to protect its interest in the property. The property to be sold at foreclosure is all of that real estate situated in Milton Township, County of Cass, State of Michigan, described as: LOT 5, DUNNING ACRES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN LIBER 1G of PLATS, PAGE 333. Parcel No. 14-070-300-005-00 Commonly known address: 29154 US 12, Niles, Michigan 49120 The redemption period shall be one (1) year from the date of sale pursuant to MCLA 600.3240(12), unless deemed abandoned and then pursuant to the time frames provided for in MCL 600.3241a. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. April 23, 2026 First Federal Savings Bank PLUNKETT COONEY Lisa A. Hall (P70200) Attorney for Mortgagee 333 Bridge Street NW, Suite 530 Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504 (616) 752-4615 (05-02)(05-30)

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on JUNE 17, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Leona A. Hawkins, not stated, T/B/E, to Beneficial Michigan Inc., Mortgagee, dated March 27, 2006 and recorded March 30, 2006 in Liber 933, Page 964 Cass County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, as Trustee, as successor-in-interest to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as indenture trustee, for the holders of the CIM Trust 2021-R1, Mortgage-Backed Notes, Series 2021-R1, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Forty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty and 15/100 Dollars ($49,980.15).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Cass County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on JUNE 17, 2026.
Said premises are located in the Village of Vandalia, Cass County Michigan, and are described as:
Land situated in the Village of Vandalia, County of Cass, State of Michigan:Lots 16, 17 & 18, Hains Addition to the Village of Vandalia according to the recorded Plat thereof.Excepting therefrom the following described premises in the Village of Vandalia in CassCounty and State of Michigan: Lot Twelve (12), Hains Addition to the Village of Vandalia according to the recorded Plat thereof.Tax Parcel No.: 14-101-200-016-00
17713 South Street, Vandalia, Michigan 49095
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful exemption.
Dated: May 2, 2026
File No. 24-006519
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400 (05-02)(05-23)

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF HOWARD CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN
SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 237

Notice is hereby given that the Howard Township Board will consider adoption of Proposed Ordinance No. 237, entitled:

"An Ordinance to Enact a Non-Zoning Temporary Moratorium on Data Centers and Battery Energy Storage Systems."

The proposed Ordinance would establish a temporary moratorium on the acceptance and processing of applications for Data Centers and Battery Energy Storage Systems ("BESS") within Howard Township. The purpose of the proposed moratorium is to allow the Township adequate time to study potential impacts to public health, safety, welfare, land use, and the environment, and to consider possible amendments to Township ordinances and regulations relating to such uses.

The proposed moratorium would remain in effect for one (1) year from the effective date of the Ordinance, or until amended or new Township regulations concerning Data Centers and/or Battery Energy Storage Systems become effective, whichever occurs first. The Township Board may extend the moratorium by resolution if additional time is necessary to complete its review and ordinance updates.

The proposed Ordinance also contains severability, repeal, and effective date provisions.

A copy of the proposed Ordinance may be inspected or obtained at the Howard Township Clerk's Office, 1435 Barron Lake Road, Niles, Michigan 49120, during regular business hours.

Sheri Wozinak, Clerk Howard Charter Township
269-684-0072, clerk@howardtwp.org

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on June 17, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Cassandra Miller and Jeffrey Starr Jr Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.("MERS"),solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: December 5, 2023 Recorded on December 11, 2023, Liber 1240, on Page 1243, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): NewRez LLC Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Twenty Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Five and 86/100 Dollars ($120,585.86) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Cass County, and described as: Lot 142 in McOmber`s Third Addition to the Village (now City) of Dowagiac, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber W of Deeds, Page 330, Cass County Records. Commonly known as 421 W Railroad St, Dowagiac, MI 49047 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. NewRez LLC Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1593464 (05-16)(06-06)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - CASS COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on June 17, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Chadwick G. Johnson and Katherine R. Johnson, husband and wife Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as mortgagee, for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: August 8, 2017 Recorded on August 9, 2017, Liber 1127, on Page 50, and re-recorded via Loan Modification recorded on November 04, 2024 in Liber 1252, on Page 1960 Foreclosing Assignee (if any): The Huntington National Bank Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Three Hundred Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Nine and 99/100 Dollars ($307,909.99) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Cass County, and described as: Lot Numbered 10 in Chicago Trail Farms according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Liber 1-L of Plats, page 581- Cass County Records. Commonly known as 69265 Sundance Dr, Edwardsburg, MI 49112 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The Huntington National Bank Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1592780(05-09)(05-30)

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on JUNE 17, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Amanda J. Martin, a married woman, to Greenpoint Credit Corp., Mortgagee, dated May 5, 1999 and recorded May 12, 1999 in Liber 700, Page 79 and Loan Modification Agreement recorded on October 25, 2021, in Liber 1206, Page 514, and Affidavit of Scrivener's Error recorded on September 22, 2020, in Liber 1180, Page 1804, Cass County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Trustee of the NRZ Pass-Through Trust XI, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Ninety-One Thousand Nine Hundred Thirteen and 0/100 Dollars ($91,913.00).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Cass County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on JUNE 17, 2026.
Said premises are located in the Township of Jefferson, Cass County Michigan, and are described as:
That part of the Southwest Quarter of Section 17, Township 7 South, Range 15 West, Jefferson Township, Cass County, Michigan, described as: Beginning at a point on the South line of said Section 17 a distance of 250.00 feet East of the Southwest corner of said Section 17; thence North 360.00 feet; thence East 250.00 feet; thence South 360.00 feet to the South line of said Section 17; thence West on said South line 250.00 feet to the point of beginning.
26890 Jefferson Center Rd, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful exemption.
Dated: May 16, 2026
File No. 26-003877
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400 (05-16)(06-06)

LaGrange Township
Notice of Budget Public Hearing

The LaGrange Township Board will hold a hearing on the proposed township budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 at the LaGrange Township Hall, 58253 M-62, Cassopolis, Michigan, on June 15th, 2026, at approx. 7:30pm.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be the subject of this hearing.

A copy of the budget is available for public inspection at the Township Clerk's office located at 24863 Pokagon Hwy., Cassopolis, Michigan by appointment.

The LaGrange Township Board will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon 5 business days notice to the LaGrange Township Board.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids should contact the LaGrange Township Board by writing or calling the following:

Tasha E. McCoy
LaGrange Township Clerk
24863 Pokagon Hwy., Cassopolis, MI 49031
(269) 233-4004

Notice is posted in compliance with PA267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41.72a (2) (3) and the American Disabilities Act (ADA), and MCL 141.436 & MCL 211.24e Section 16 of the Uniform Budgeting & Accounting Act.

A copy of this notice is on file in the office of the Clerk

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on June 17, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Aliyah Baldwin Original Mortgagee: Contour Mortgage Corporation Date of mortgage: May 10, 2024 Recorded on May 16, 2024, Liber 1245, on Page 2496, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Forty Thousand Twenty-Two and 34/100 Dollars ($140,022.34) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Cass County, and described as: Lots 59 and 60 in Lyle Addition to the City of Dowagiac, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 1 of plats, Page 58, Cass County Records. Commonly known as 106 Clyborn St, Dowagiac, MI 49047 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1593468 (05-16)(06-06)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on 6/10/2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Names of Mortgagor(s): Adam Charles Roach. Original mortgagee: 1st Source Bank. Date of mortgage: 9/23/2013. Mortgage recorded on 9/27/2013 as Document No. 91938, in Liber 1067, Page 67. Foreclosing Assignee (if any): 1st Source Bank. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: $49,619.65 Mortgaged premises: Situated in Cass County, and described as: REAL ESTATE LOCATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF SILVER CREEK, COUNTY OF CASS, STATE OF MICHIGAN AND DESCRIBED AS: BEGINNING AT A POINT 12 RODS NORTH OF THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTH-EAST QUARTER OF SECTION 19, TOWN 5 SOUTH, RANGE 16 WEST, THENCE NORTH 29 RODS; THENCE WEST 13 1/3 RODS, THENCE SOUTH 29 RODS, THENCE EAST 13 1/3 RODS TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. Commonly known as 53435 Indian Lake Rd, Dowagiac, MI 49047. The redemption period will be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days after the statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is determined abandoned under MCL 600.3241, the redemption period will be 1 month from the date of such sale. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes pursuant to MCL 600.3240(16), the redemption period is 1 year from the date of such sale. The redemption period may be extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Date of Notice: 05/09/2026. Codilis & Moody, P.C. 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100 Burr Ridge, IL 60527 (313) 536-2500. This law firm is a debt collector. C&M File 23-26-00265 (05-09)(05-30)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on July 1, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Carmen Peake and Eugene Peake, wife and husband
Original Mortgagee: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, successor by merger to Chase Home Finance, LLC
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, successor by merger to Chase Home Finance, LLC
Date of Mortgage: February 18, 2000
Date of Mortgage Recording: February 29, 2000
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $48,877.55
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Village of Cassopolis, Cass County, Michigan, and described as: Beginning at a point on the Westerly line of Lot 12, which is South 33 degrees 26 minutes East, 132.0 feet from the most Westerly corner of Lot 12, Villa of Andersonville, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 42 of Deeds, Page 356, Cass County Records; thence South 65 degrees 29 minutes 30 seconds West, 152.74 feet, more or less, to the East line of Highway M-60, thence North 4 degrees East along the East line of Highway M-60, 80.77 feet; thence North 71 degrees 51 minutes 30 seconds East, 105.54 feet, more or less, to the Westerly line of said Lot 12; thence South 33 degrees 26 minutes East, 60.0 feet to the place of beginning.
Common street address (if any): 105 Hilltop Ln, Cassopolis, MI 49031-1234
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: May 9, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515 1592730 (05-09)(05-30)

0200 EMPLOYMENT

WANTED
Experienced Mason

Contact Mike
at 269-362-1566

0500 MERCHANDISE

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0900 LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BERRIEN COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DECEDENT'S ESTATE

CASE NO.
2026-0265-DE-R
Hon. Brian S. Berger

Court address:
811 Port Street,
Saint Joseph, MI 49085

Estate of: Abbie M. Potee
Date of birth: 01/03/1941

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: the decedent, Abbie M. Potee, died 10/14/2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Ronald D. Masters, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 811 Port St., Saint Joseph, MI 49085 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 05/14/2026

Nathan A. Barnes P-80513
Attorney
4100 Edison Lakes Pkwy,
Ste 100
Mishawaka, IN 46545
574-243-4100

Ronald D. Masters
Personal Representative
1780 N. County Road 0 EW
Frankfort, IN 46041
765-650-8260

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF Berrien

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO.
2026-0365-DE-J
hon. Paul Jancha

Court Address
811 Port St.,
St. Joseph, MI 49085
Telephone no.
269-983-7111

Estate of:
Raschelle Leigh Carey
Date of birth: 09/08/1982

TO ALL CREDITORS: *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Raschelle Leigh Carey died 11/11/2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to, Kaiya Slater, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 811 Port St. St. Joseph, MI 49085 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date 05-18/2026

Thomas J. Walz P79360
Attorney name **Bar No.**
509 W. Washington St.
Address
South Bend, IN 46601
City, State, Zip
574-232-5988
Telephone no.

Kaiya Slater
Personal representative
22922 Edison Road
Address
South Bend, IN 46628
City, state, zip
574-344-8039
Telephone

CASSOPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2026-2027 BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on Monday, June 15, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., in the Media Center at Cassopolis High School, 22721 Diamond Cove Street, Cassopolis, Michigan, the Board of Education of Cassopolis Public Schools will hold a public hearing to consider the district's proposed 2026-2027 budget. The board may not adopt its proposed 2026-2027 budget until after a public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2026-2027 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the district's business office, 22721 Diamond Cove Street, Cassopolis, Michigan (Door 22). **The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of the hearing. *** This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.
Teresa Dahlgren, Secretary

0900 LEGALS

Economy Storage, 2206 Yankee Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday May 30, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
Unit # Name
9/185 Candy Whitmire
27 Nicolas Sansom
28 Emalee Anderson
50 Lillian Joyce Bennett
60 Roenea Anderson
62 Andrew Dunifin
67 Jerome Jankowiak
77 Brittany Mitchell
82 Ericka Pitone
92 Robert Procopi
95 Bobbie Epps
125/179 Steve Kelley
127/633 Chris Norris
145/467/468 Michael Merritt
148 Gloster Johnson
164 Bradley Hattenback
183 Cindy Fisher
184/66 Mary Anderson
190/306 Linda Nilson
191 Alan Smith
192 Patricia Yoder
223 Derek Baker
273 Tony Pompey
274 Gregory Montgomery
278 Chelsie Carlyle
282 Keely Collier
284 Kathleen Peterson
342 Terrence Moss
346 DaMonica Williams
347 Tyreak Hunter
356 Chase Molica
389 Parnell Jenkins
410/534 Rebecca Coleman
418 Melissa Hocker
427 McCade Reese
429 Aaron Haynes
438 Adrianna Affriso
442 Dawn Hojara
451 Jean Fitch
452 Tyler Mahar
492/676 Malawi Association
526 Keith Hill
530 Justin Landis
533 Ashley Scantlon
545 Candy Whitmire
546 Robin Bontrager
589 Lisa Schay
608 Robert Conner
638 Britney Stanczyk
639 Barry Brann
665 Rodney Prescott
677/567 Julie Potate

Niles U -Stor-It, 1314 E. Main Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday May 30, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.
35 George Seratt
47/49 Jasmine Collett
54 Cynthia Swisher

J & J Storage, 2220 S. 13th Street and 2627 S. 11th Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday May 30, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.
64 Wendy Jones
107 Bobby Marrow
176 Dacia Bush
227 Jennifer Nichols
238/466 James Diss
263 Tamara Holmes
292 The Woodshed Crafts
314 Tracey Parrish
377 Christy Stevens
380 Leatha Lennox
422 Jeremy Davis
481 Natosha Libertowski

Howard Township
Cass County, Michigan
Board of Trustees
May 19, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

Board Action
Approved Meeting Agenda.
Approved the minutes of the 4/21/26 Board Meeting
Approved the minutes of the 5/12/26 Special Meeting
Approved the financial report with an ending balance of 2,141,224.48 including a CD
Approved the payment of bills through May 19, 2026
Approved the departmental reports
Presentation by SMCAS
Introduction of proposed Ordinance #237
Public Comment Occurred
Approved Firework permit for Scott Carli
Approved Use of Fire Dept by Barron Lake Assoc
Approved Resolution #2026-10 Data Center Moratorium
Approved Rezone request by Jeffrey Gerrits
Public Comment Occurred
Adjourn the meeting at 8:15p.m.

Notice of Public Hearing
The Jefferson Township Board will hold its annual Truth in Taxation & Public Budget Hearing on the proposed township budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 at the Jefferson Township Hall 24725 Jefferson Center St, Cassopolis, MI 49031 June 11, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.
The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing. A copy of the proposed budget will be available for public inspection at the Jefferson Township Hall

0900 LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE AUCTION
Niles Storage, 2457 Yankee St.
Niles, MI 49120
May 23, 2026 @ 4:00 pm
Owner's lien - overdue rents

Unit # Name:
#48 Rashida Jackson Misc. household items, patio furniture, dining table/chairs, child's table.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
43RD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
CASS COUNTY
2026

PUBLICATION AND NOTICE OF FRIEND OF THE COURT ANNUAL STATUTORY REVIEW

PUBLIC NOTICE
ANNUAL REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE RECORD OF THE FRIEND OF THE COURT

Pursuant to Michigan law, the chief circuit judge annually reviews the performance record of the friend of the court. The review will be conducted on or about July 1,2026.
This review is limited by law to the following criteria: whether the friend of the court is guilty of misconduct, neglect of statutory duty, or failure to carry out the written orders of the court relative to a statutory duty; whether the purposes of the Friend of the Court Act are being met; and whether the duties of the friend of the court are being carried out in a manner that reflects the needs of the community. Members of the public may submit written comments to the chief judge relating to these criteria. Send your written comments, with your name and address, to Hon Carol M. Bealor at 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 a.m., on June 24, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. Default has occurred in the conditions of a Mortgage (the "Mortgage") made by DEVON RICHARDS and PAOLA LIZARDI RICHARDS, husband and wife, as Mortgagor(s), to United Federal Credit Union, as Mortgagee. The Mortgage is dated April 17, 2023 and was recorded April 24, 2023 at Liber 1231, Page 1567 of Cass County Records. The amount claimed to be due on said Mortgage and unpaid at the date of this Notice is ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-TWO THOUSAND NINETY AND 67/100 ($152,090.67) DOLLARS, including interest on the applicable indebtedness at a variable rate which is currently 7.25% per annum. This sum will increase as additional interest, costs, expenses, and attorney fees accrue under the Mortgage and its related note and which are permitted under Michigan law after the date of this Notice. No legal or equitable proceedings have been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, and the power of sale in the Mortgage has become operative by reason of the default. At the date and time as referenced previously in this Notice, the Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the property herein described, or some part of them, at public auction, to the highest bidder, for the purpose of satisfying the amount due and unpaid on the Mortgage, along with interest due, the legal costs and charges of sale as allowed by statute and/or the Mortgage, and any taxes and insurance that the Mortgagee pays on or prior to the date of said sale. The property mentioned and described in the Mortgage, as located in the Township of Mason, County of Cass, and State of Michigan, are more particularly described as follows: Part of the East half of the Northwest fractional quarter of Section 24, Town 8 South, Range 14 West, Mason Township, Cass County, Michigan, described as: From the North quarter of said Section 24, measure West, along the North line of said Section, 100.00; thence measure South 0 degrees 32 minutes 36 seconds East, 380.00 feet; thence measure West, 560.00 feet; thence measure South 0 degrees 32 minutes 36 seconds East, 1694.97 feet to the point of beginning of the land herein described; thence South 0 degrees 32 minutes 36 seconds East, 300.00 feet to the Indiana-Michigan State Line; thence South 89 degrees 36 minutes 05 seconds West, along said State Line, 247.95 feet; thence North 0 degrees 34 minutes 34 seconds West, 300.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 36 minutes 05 seconds East, 248.12 feet to the point of beginning; Address: 16780 State Line Rd., Union, MI 49130; Tax Parcel No.: 14-060-024-374-47; together with all existing or subsequently erected or affixed buildings, improvements, and fixtures; all easements, rights of way, streets, roads, alleys, and public places, privileges, and appurtenances, public or private, now or later used in connection with the premises; and all rights to make divisions of the land that are exempt from the platting requirements of all applicable land division or platting acts, as amended from time to time. Attention Purchasers: the foreclosing Mortgagee reserves the right to cancel the sale prior to sale or to rescind this sale at any time. In that event, your damages, if any, will be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at the sale, plus interest. If the mortgaged property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention Homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The length of the redemption period will be six (6) months from date of sale, unless the redemption period is shortened pursuant to MCL 600.3241a or MCL 600.3238, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of sale or as otherwise provided by statute. DATED: May 23, 2026 ANDREW W. BARNES (P70571) BUTZEL LONG P.C. ATTORNEYS FOR UNITED FEDERAL CREDIT UNION 317 Center Street, South Haven, MI 49090; 269-287-2010 (05-23)(06-13)

0900 LEGALS

Storage Unit Auction
28733 Middle Crossing Rd,
Dowagiac, MI 49047
Auction-Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 10am

Unit 10- miscellaneous items, household items
Unit 13-miscellaneous household items and clothes
Unit 32-miscellaneous items

1000 HOME SERVICE DIRECTORY

J&H POWER WASHING
HOUSES, DRIVEWAYS, DECKS, FENCING, RV'S/MOTOR HOMES.

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WHEN YOU CAN CALL THE BEST?
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Howard Charter Township Cass County, Michigan
NOTICE OF PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

TO: RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF HOWARD CHARTER TOWNSHIP AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing before the Planning Commission of Howard Charter Township, Cass County, Michigan will be held during a special meeting of the Planning Commission on June 10, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Office, 1345 Barron Lake Road, Niles, Michigan for the consideration of zoning ordinance text amendments to Zoning Ordinance #192, Chapter 3 Section 3.02 Definitions; Chapter 15 Section 15.04 Easements and Section 15.25 Accessory Use, Building or Structure; Chapter 22; to summarize, accomplish the following:

1. Amendment to Section 3.02 Definitions; to add the definition of "Debris".
2. Amendment to Section 15.04 Easements: to amend wording
3. Amendment to Section 15.25 Accessory Use, Building or Structure: to clarify where building/structures are allowed.
4. Chapter 22: to add a temporary moratorium on Data Centers and Battery Energy Storage Systems

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT you are invited to attend the hearing and to present your opinions or position relative to the subject of this hearing. If you are unable to attend the hearing, you may send a letter stating your opinions or position to the Howard Charter Township Office, 1345 Barron Lake Road, Niles, MI 49120, Attention: Zoning Administrator.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT the application describing the action or relief being sought and Township Zoning Ordinance #192 is available for public inspection, at the Township Office on regular business days during regular business hours.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT the Township will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the hearing to individuals with disabilities upon five (5) days' notice to the Howard Charter Township Clerk of the need for the same. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township by email at depclerk@howardtwp.org, in writing, or by calling the Clerk at the Township office at the address and/or phone number provided below.

Published: 5/23/2026
Linda McGregor
Zoning Administrator
1345 Barron Lake Rd
Niles, Michigan 49120
(269) 684-0072, opt 3

STATE OF MICHIGAN
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOTICE OF HEARING FOR THE ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS OF INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANY
CASE NO. U-22012

· Indiana Michigan Power Company requests Michigan Public Service Commission's approval of its 2025 Energy Waste Reduction Reconciliation.

· The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.

· You may call or write Indiana Michigan Power Company Benton Harbor Service Center, 2425 Meadowbrook Rd., Benton Harbor, MI 49022, (800) 311-6424, for a free copy of its application. Any person may review the documents at the offices of Indiana Michigan Power Company or on the Commission's website at: https://mi-psc.my.site.com/s/.

· A pre-hearing will be held:

DATE/TIME: Thursday, June 11, 2026 at 9:30 AM

BEFORE: Administrative Law Judge Jacqueline Langwith

LOCATION: Video/Teleconference

PARTICIPATION: Any interested person may participate. Persons needing any assistance to participate or who are seeking access to the video/teleconference should contact the Administrative Law Judge's secretary at (517) 284-8130 or by email at LARA-MOAHR-PSC@michigan.gov in advance of the hearing.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a pre-hearing to consider Indiana Michigan Power Company's (I&M) May 1, 2026 application requesting the Commission to: 1) approve I&M's request to commence an Energy Waste Reduction (EWR) Plan Cost Reconciliation proceeding for the calendar year period ended December 31, 2025, and determine that the reconciliation meets all relevant requirements of PA 295, as amended; 2) approve the EWR costs, as proposed, were reasonably and prudently incurred; 3) authorize I&M's requested rate adjustment associated with its actual 2025 EWR program costs and carrying charges, resulting in a cumulative over-recovery balance of ($7,840,457), as of December 31, 2025; 4) approve I&M's total 2025 EWR revenue in the amount of ($8,023,893) which includes the cumulative over-recovery balance of ($7,840,457) and the carrying charge credit of ($183,436); 5) approve I&M's reconciliation for the 2025 EWR Plan year and the associated update to I&M's EWR tariff rates; 6) approve the revised reconciliation component rates for I&M's EWR Surcharge Rider as proposed and effective for bills rendered with the first billing cycle of January 2027 or the first billing month following a Commission order, whichever is later; and 7) grant I&M such other and additional relief as the Commission may deem reasonable and appropriate.

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets website at: https://mi-psc.my.site.com/s/. Requirements and instructions for filing can be found in the User Manual on the E-Dockets help page. Documents may also be submitted, in PDF format, as an attachment to an email sent to: LARA-MPSC-edockets@michigan.gov. If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 284-8090 or by email at: LARA-MPSC-edockets@michigan.gov.

Any person wishing to intervene and become a party to the case shall electronically file a petition to intervene with this Commission by June 4, 2026. (Interested persons may elect to file using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon Indiana Michigan Power Company's attorney, Jason T. Hanselman, 201 Townsend St., Ste. 900, Lansing, MI 48933.

The prehearing is scheduled to be held remotely by video conference or teleconference. Persons filing a petition to intervene will be advised of the process for participating in the hearing.

Any person wishing to appear at the hearing to make a statement of position without becoming a party to the case may participate by filing an appearance. To file an appearance, the individual must attend the hearing and advise the presiding administrative law judge of their wish to make a statement of position. Mich Admin Code, R 792.10413 (Rule 413).

Any person wishing to file a public comment may do so by filing a written statement in this docket. The written statement may be mailed or emailed and should reference Case No. U-22012. Statements may be emailed to: LARA-MPSC-edockets@michigan.gov. Statements may be mailed to: Executive Secretary, Michigan Public Service Commission, 7109 West Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917.

All information submitted to the Commission in this matter becomes public information, thus available on the Michigan Public Service Commission's website, and subject to disclosure. Please do not include information you wish to remain private. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Executive Secretary at the above address or by telephone at (517) 284-8090.

Requests for adjournment must be made pursuant to Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules R 792.10422 and R 792.10432. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 284-8130.

Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1909 PA 106, as amended, MCL 460.551 et seq.; 1919 PA 419, as amended, MCL 460.54 et seq.; 1939 PA 3, as amended, MCL 460.1 et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; 2008 PA 295, MCL 460.1001 et seq., and Parts 1 & 4 of the Administrative Hearing Rules of the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules, Mich. Admin Code, R 792.10106(2), (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7); R 792.10121; and R 792.10401 through R 792.10448. U-22012

Notice of Public Hearing on Increasing Property Taxes

The BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of the COUNTY OF CASS
will hold a public hearing on a proposed increase of 0.0460 mills in the operating tax millage rate to be levied on all property in 2026.
The hearing will be held on THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026 AT 5:00 P.M.
at the CASS COUNTY BUILDING, 120 N. BROADWAY STREET, CASSOPOLIS MI.
The date and location of the meeting to take action on the proposed additional millage will be announced at this public meeting.
If adopted, the proposed additional millage will increase operating revenues from ad valorem property taxes 0.70% over such revenues generated by levies permitted without holding a hearing. If the proposed additional millage rate is not approved, the operating revenue will increase by 1.05% over the preceding year's operating revenue.
The taxing unit publishing this notice, and identified below, has complete authority to establish the number of mills to be levied from within its authorized millage rate.

This notice is published by:
COUNTY OF CASS
120 N. BROADWAY STREET
CASSOPOLIS MI 49031
(269) 445-4420

DOWAGIAC GIRLS SOCCER EARNS LAKELAND CONFERENCE TITLE

Photo provided

The Dowagiac girls soccer team recently clinched the Lakeland Conference Championship. The Chieftains will host Paw Paw at 5 p.m. Tuesday in the first round of Division 2 district play.

HIGH SCHOOL SCOREBOARD

SOFTBALL

May 16 results

BUCHANAN 13, MARIAN 2 (5 INN.)

Buchanan	**202**	**54**	**—**	**13**	**10**	**1**
Marian	**110**	**00**	**—**	**2**	**5**	**4**

WP – H. Legault (1k). LP – T. Geiger (0k).
Top hitters – Buchanan: L. Atkinson 2 1B, 3 RBI; C. Weinberg 2B, 1B, 2 RBI; K. Holloway 2B, 1B, 2 RBI; R. Berry 1B, 2 RBI; T. Carlin 2 1B; M. Ely 2B, RBI; A. Berry RBI. Mishawaka Marian: L. Studon 3B; H. Pedraza 2B, 1B; V. Hoy 1B; M. Jordan 1B.

BUCHANAN 4, SOUTH BEND ADAMS 3 (8 INN.)

South Bend Adams	**000**	**001**	**2**	**0**	**—**	**3**	**7**	**0**
Buchanan	**010**	**000**	**2**	**1**	**—**	**4**	**6**	**1**

WP – H. Legault 4k. LP – M. Miller 0k.
Top hitters – South Bend Adams: J. McNellis 2 2B, RBI; A. Kadar 2B, 1B, RBI; M. Miller RBI. Buchanan: R. Berry HR, 1B, 2 RBI; L. Atkinson 3B; A. Berry 2 1B, RBI; T. Carlin 1B; K. Singleton RBI.

Tuesday results
Game 1

BUCHANAN 6, NILES 0

Niles	**000**	**000**	**0**	**—**	**0**	**3**	**2**	
Buchanan	**200**	**400**	**x**	**—**	**6**	**10**	**1**	

WP – H. Legault 5k. LP – J. Reed 3k.
Top hitters – Niles: A. Kirschbaum 1b; E. Bailey 1b; M. Albright 1b. Buchanan: R. Berry 2 3b, 1b, RBI; M. Ely 2 1b, RBI; C. Weinberg 2 1b, RBI; H. Legault 2b, RBI; L. Atkinson 1b, RBI; T. Carlin 1b.
Game 2
Buchanan 12, Niles 1 (5 inn.)

Niles	**000**	**10**	**—**	**1**	**4**	**4**		
Buchanan	**510**	**6x**	**—**	**12**	**10**	**2**		

WP – A. Villaire 3k. LP – J. Reed 3k.
Top hitters – Niles: E. Bailey 1b, RBI; A. Kirschbaum 1b; A. Johnson 1b; T. Brawley 1b. Buchanan: R. Berry 3b, 4 RBI; A. Berry 2 1b, 3 RBI; K. Holloway 2 1b, RBI; K. Singleton 2 1b, RBI; M. Ely 1b, RBI; T. Carlin 1b, RBI.

GIRLS SOCCER

Division 2 districts

STURGIS 2, VICKSBURG 0

At Sturgis
Records – Edwardsburg 6-10

VICKSBURG 9, NILES 1

At Vicksburg

Petitti says larger playoff would make season more meaningful

By EDDIE PELLS
AP National Writer

Darron Cummings / AP

Big Ten Conference Commissioner Tony Petitti speaks during Big Ten Conference media days at Lucas Oil Stadium on July 26, 2023.

RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CA. — Big Ten commissioner Tony Petitti painted his conference's 24-team College Football Playoff proposal as a way of making the regular season more meaningful – not less – and said he's surprised he keeps having to explain that to a stout group of critics who favor a smaller expansion.

"When I was in baseball, we never had to convince people that keeping more people in the race is better for everybody," Petitti, who helped shepherd in playoff expansion when he was with Major League Baseball from 2008-20, said Tuesday. "But I feel like, in this space, we're being asked to do that."

Petitti met with reporters on the second day of the league's spring meetings. He spelled out the reasoning behind the push for a 24-team playoff and projected a sense of unanimity among his coaches and athletic directors in favor of doubling the tournament from its current 12-team format.

He once again said there was no real love in his league for what the Southeastern Conference prefers – a move to 16 teams that, under one scenario, would put every playoff team in action on the first week.

"I don't understand the motivation to play a championship game without a bye," he said.

But, Petitti asked, if leagues got rid of the title games, then in a 16-team format that adds only two games to the playoffs, "what's the economics" to make up what he estimates is $200 million in revenue the Power Four conferences would lose?

Over the past few weeks, both the Atlantic Coast and Big 12 conferences have said they would prefer a move to 24 teams.

In what might have been the week's biggest eye-opener, SEC commissioner Greg Sankey said on "The Paul Finebaum Show" that at his own league meetings in Florida next week, he expects "a lot of our coaches, a lot of our athletic directors and probably some others (will) think 24 is the right direction."

That would mark a seismic shift from where the SEC has been for the past year.

Sensing the gulf between the SEC and his own league – the two conferences that must agree to a change – Petitti said the Big Ten shifted away from a model with multiple automatic qualifiers to one that would place 23 at-large teams selected by the committee into the new bracket, with one slot reserved for a Group of 6 program.

Games in the first two rounds would be played on campus.

Petitti said the system created enough "tiers" – with eight first-round byes, eight more first-round home games and the last eight spots going to teams simply looking for a playoff berth – to generate interest in regular-season games across the country, and down to the wire.

"I don't get why we can't have a Minnesota-Iowa game have a big impact every so often – or every year, actually," Petitti said.

Because the leagues haven't been able to agree, the upcoming season's playoffs will be a 12-team affair. The deadline to decide about 2027 is Dec. 1.

Such a big expansion would involve a huge amount of logistical maneuvering, most important of which would be figuring out what to do with conference title games and selling the 12 new playoff games to TV partners.

All would be worth the work, Petitti insisted.

"I don't understand the basic premise that more games that have an impact or keep you in the hunt aren't the right thing to do," he said.

BASEBALL

Tigers ace Skubal takes 'great step' in injury recovery, velocity up

By TONY PAUL
The Detroit News (TNS)

Robin Buckson / The Detroit News / TNS

Tigers pitcher Tarik Skubal is working his way back from elbow surgery.

DETROIT — There's still no timetable, but there's a lot of talk.

Tigers ace Tarik Skubal continues to appear well ahead of schedule in his rehab from arthroscopic elbow surgery, and he took another step Thursday, throwing more than 30 pitches in a bullpen session.

Tigers manager AJ Hinch called it a "great step" in speaking to the media before the series finale against the Cleveland Guardians at Comerica Park.

"He came into my office right away, was excited," Hinch said. "It's full stuff."

Hinch said the next step for Skubal will be another bullpen session during the Tigers' weekend series in Baltimore. Beyond that, things remain unclear, though Skubal confirmed to reporters, including MLB.com's Jason Beck, after his bullpen session Thursday, that he will need at least one rehab stint before he eventually rejoins the rotation.

Hinch said Skubal's pregame bullpen session featured some simulated game elements, including a sitdown, as he would between innings of a normal state. Hinch said Skubal's velocity was the highest it's been since he started throwing, remarkably less than three weeks after he had surgery to remove a loose body from the elbow.

"There are little hurdles to clear along the way when you come back from a procedure," Hinch said. "And as much as we've described it as simple, it's still a procedure. So, you know, being able to let it go freely and ... lean on a few in a bullpen like he normally would, he did that today.

"Hopefully, we can ask more out of him again in five days."

Hinch has been out since early May, and the Tigers have gone 2-12 in his absence to fall to 10 games below .500 (20-30) for the first time since 2023. They started Thursday tied for last place in the American League Central, trying to avoid a four-game sweep by the Guardians.

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